

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 4th October, 1962

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The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

GASCOYNE RIVER

Drawing of Water

1. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

On the 22nd August last year, he informed me that no guarantee could be given that the drawing

of water from the Gascoyne River east of the bridge would not appreciably affect the supplies in other parts of the river bed.

- (1) Can he now say if the departmental engineers have formed any definite opinion on the above question?
- (2) Has his department obtained the opinion of a geologist on this matter?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) It is considered that the drawing of water from the Gascoyne River east of the bridge will not appreciably affect the supplies in other parts of the river bed.
- (2) In arriving at this conclusion, departmental officers have maintained close liaison with officers of the Geological Survey section of the Mines Department.
- (3) Answered by No. (2).

TRAFFIC

Number of Drivers' and Vehicle Licenses

2. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Police:
 - (1) What was the total number of drivers' licenses issued by his Department for the year ended the 30th June, 1962?
 - (2) What was the total number of vehicles licensed in the State for the year ended the 30th June, 1962?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) 278,266.
- (2) 255,477 (Metropolitan area: 153,214; Country area: 102,263). It should be noted that the figure for country areas does not include trailers, caravans, or farm tractors, the total of which is not known to the Police Department.

JOONDANNA BUS SERVICE

Alteration of Route

3. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Transport:
 - (1) Is there any intention of altering the present route of the bus service which operates along Edinboro Street, Joondanna?
 - (2) If so, what are the new proposals, and from what date will they come into effect?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) and (2) Investigations into routes in the Joondanna area are being made but have not yet reached a stage where a decision can be made. I will notify the honourable member when this decision has been reached.

ELECTORAL DISTRICTS AND PROVINCES

Enrolment Figures

4. Mr. OLDFIELD asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice: What are the present enrolment figures for—
- each of the 50 Legislative Assembly districts;
 - each of the 10 Legislative Council provinces;
 - each sub-province of the 10 Legislative Council provinces?

Mr. BRAND replied:

The Minister wishes to have this question deferred, as the figures for the current quarter are not yet in.

PRINCIPAL AND AGENT

Doctrine of Independent or Collateral Contract

5. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:
- In respect of the law governing principal and agent, has the doctrine of "independent or collateral contract" by which an agent is held liable for contracts he makes on behalf of his principal, after the death of that principal, even though they were made by the agent without notice of such death, been abrogated by legislative action in this State?
 - If the answer to No. (1) is "No," would he give consideration to introducing legislation to protect agents who act *bona fide* without notice of the principal's death?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- No; but see answer to question No. (8) on the 1st August, 1962.
- Not until the need is shown to exist.

NEGLIGENT DRIVING

Marital Immunity Against Insured Drivers

6. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:
- With reference to my question No. 9 on the notice paper of the 1st August, 1962, is he now in a position to advise whether the Premiums Committee appointed under the Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Act has reported on my proposal, and whether it is intended to legislate to bring about this reform, or if it is not intended to bring about this major reform, if at least the decision of *Chant v. Read* (1939) 2KB, 346 will be set aside by legislative action?

Mr. BRAND replied:

A report has not yet been received from the Premiums Committee.

7. This question was postponed.

BOOKMAKERS' TURNOVER TAX

T.A.B. Chairman's Statement on Average

8. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Police:
- Was the Chairman of the Totalisator Agency Board correctly reported in last Saturday's *The West Australian* in stating that S.P. bookmakers paid an average of 3.05 per cent. in turnover tax?
 - If so, was the opinion based on the actual figures or was it the result of calculation on assumed figures?
 - What are the basic figures which led to the conclusion reached by the Chairman of the T.A.B.?
- Number in Tax Categories*
- At the 31st December, 1960, how many licensed off-course bookmakers were in the following turnover tax categories respectively:—
 - 2½ per cent.;
 - 2¾ per cent.;
 - 3¼ per cent.;
 - 3¾ per cent.;
 - 4¼ per cent.;
 - 4¾ per cent.?
 - How many were paying at 3½ per cent. on total annual turnover?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- Yes.
- It was an estimate based on a complete knowledge of all of the essential figures.
- (a) A turnover of £17,250,000.
(b) Turnover tax of £525,000.
In fact, the turnover tax paid by off-course bookmakers has never averaged 3.05 per cent. It has been something less. It is considered that it would have been 3.05 per cent. in 1960-61 had there been no change in the off-course betting legislation.
- (a) 81.
(b) 81.
(c) 25.
(d) 11.
(e) 3.
(f) Nil.
- On the 31st December, 1960, one bookmaker was paying 3½ per cent. but this was not on annual turnover. During early December, 1960, two bookmakers surrendered their licenses. Had such bookmakers been in operation at the 31st December, 1960, they would have been paying 3½ per cent. and 4¾ per cent. respectively.

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION OF COWS *Number Treated and Success Percentage*

9. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) How many cows were treated in the State by artificial insemination during the years 1959-60, 1960-61, 1961-62?
- (2) What percentage of success accrued during those periods?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) 1959-60 11,768
 1960-61 10,982
 1961-62 10,469

The 1st July to the 29th
 September, 1961 4,750
 The 1st July to the 28th
 September, 1962 5,445

- (2) The measure of success adopted for supervision is non return to the first service by the end of the month following that in which the insemination is carried out.

The results were as follows:—

| | | |
|---------|-------|-------|
| 1959-60 | | 56.9% |
| 1960-61 | | 58.2% |
| 1961-62 | | 69.5% |

Three services, if necessary, are allowed for the one fee. In 1961-62, 96.6 per cent. did not return after three services.

The results are following the pattern of all artificial breeding services in other countries. Improvement in results has been continuous and they are now comparable with the best services in those countries.

FREMANTLE PRISONERS

Attempted Gaol Break

10. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Is he aware—
 - (a) of an attempted gaol break from Fremantle Prison on the 25th August last;
 - (b) that approximately ten prisoners were involved, four actively, including two lifers;
 - (c) that weapons included leather-covered sand-filled coshes, pieces of wood, and two small bottles of petrol;
 - (d) that prisoners reached the division from the yard, with the intention of attacking the gaol officers for the possession of the keys and then rushing the gate, but were prevented from so doing by the vigilance of members of the Gaol Officers' Association?

- (2) As members of the association receive adverse Press and other criticism and publicity in the unlikely event of a successful gaol

break, will he, after inquiries, give consideration to commending the gaol officers responsible for the prevention of this serious and concerted effort to escape from gaol?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) (a) There was a planned break but it was not attempted due to vigilance of staff.
 (b) Four were actually involved but six others were implicated when questioned.
 (c) and (d) The weapons referred to by the honourable member were found following a search of the prisoners involved. The four prisoners involved were with others in the division following the normal routine of the prison. It is not to be inferred that they forced their way there. However, when questioned subsequent to information being supplied to a senior prison officer by a prisoner that an escape was being planned, they admitted their intention of attempting an escape in the manner indicated.
- (2) As already indicated, I am aware of the incident concerned, the further development of which was prevented through action taken by the staff in the normal course of their duties. That they were able to prevent a break being made is commendable and appreciated by the administration, but I emphasise that vigilance by the staff is one of the most important parts of their responsibilities, and is expected of them at all times.

COLLIE COAL

Rail Freights to Kalgoorlie and Handling Charges

11. Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Have rail freights and handling charges on coal ex Collie to Kalgoorlie been subject to increases during the period May, 1961, to October this year?
- (2) If so, what is the rate of increase?

Mr. BRAND (for Mr. Court) replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by No. (1).

SUPERPHOSPHATE

Transport Subsidies

12. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is there a subsidy paid by the Government on superphosphate ex Albany by road or rail; and, if so, what is the rate of subsidy?

- (2) Does the Government pay subsidy on superphosphate ex Bassendean to Newdegate area; and, if so, what is the rate of subsidy paid—road or rail?
- (3) Is there a subsidy paid on superphosphate ex Bassendean to Ravensthorpe, via Newdegate—road and rail?

Price at Bassendean and Albany Works

- (4) What is the price of superphosphate per ton ex Bassendean Superphosphate Works?
- (5) What is the price of superphosphate per ton ex Albany Superphosphate Works?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Yes, by road, in respect of the area served from the Cranbrook-Frankland River subsidised service. The rates vary according to distance of the property from rail at Cranbrook and, for the 1961-62 season, ranged from 2s. 1d. to 17s. per ton, and for the current season will be from 7s. 11d. to 22s. 11d. per ton.

By rail, a concession reduction in freight of 5s. per ton applies in respect of superphosphate consigned between the 1st September, 1962, and the 31st January, 1963.

- (2) Yes. By road from Newdegate to farms in the Lakes bins area. Subsidy rates are as follows:—

| | 1961-62 per ton | 1962-63 per ton |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| Lake King | 17 8 | 11 0 |
| Lake Camm .. | 19 8 | 12 4 |
| Lake Varley .. | 21 3 | 13 3 |
| Holt Rock | 22 9 | 14 1 |
| Mt. Madden .. | 23 9 | 14 9 |

By rail, the same concession as in question No. (1) applies.

- (3) Yes, by road from Newdegate. Subsidy rates are as follows:—

1961-62—29s. 11d. per ton.

1962-63—28s. 2d. per ton.

By rail, the same concession as in question No. (1) applies.

- (4) Cash prices of superphosphate per ton ex all works, including Bassendean and Albany, are—

New bags—£12 8s. 6d. per ton.

Bulk—£10 8s. 6d. per ton.

Paper bags—£11 16s. per ton.

The above prices are subject to early delivery discounts ranging from 20s. to 5s. per ton between September and January.

- (5) Answered by No. (4).

COAL PRICE

Increase to Kalgoorlie Power Corporation

13. Mr. MOIR asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is he aware that the Kalgoorlie Electric Power & Lighting Corporation has stated by public advertisement that the Griffin Coal Mining Co. has, since the 26th May, 1961, increased the pit-head price of coal to them by 8s. 6d. per ton, involving them in increased costs of £300 per week?
- (2) Is he aware of any factor in the coal company's cost structure that would warrant this steep increase?
- (3) As the resultant increase in the cost of light and power is seriously regarded in Kalgoorlie, would he have inquiries made into the justification of the coal price increase to this large country consumer?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) and (3) It is understood that subsequent to the statement referred to by the honourable member in question No. (1), the power corporation published another statement to the effect that, following discussions between the coal company and the power corporation, it has been agreed to defer the proposed increase in the price of coal pending the receipt of further information on what the corporation's coal requirements may be between now and the 31st December, 1962, and from then until June, 1963.

The supply of coal to the corporation is entirely by private contract negotiated between the coal company and the power corporation.

DRAINAGE

Rates in Wilson and Albany

14. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) On what basis are drainage rates levied in the Wilson and Albany drainage areas?
- (2) Is it the intention of the Government to alter existing drainage rates, as affecting both areas; and, if so, when?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Drainage rates in the Wilson and Albany Areas (known as the Wilson and Torbay Drainage District) are based on the unimproved

capital value of ratable properties. The rates levied are variable according to benefits.

- (2) This is under consideration, but as yet no decision has been reached.

ROAD TRANSPORT OF GROCERIES

Illegal Cartage

15. Mr. D. G. MAY asked the Minister for Transport:

Since the approved 10 cwt. extension for the road transport of groceries by country grocers will be advise—

- (a) the number of persons apprehended for illegal cartage of groceries in excess of the 10 cwt. extension;
- (b) number of prosecutions; and
- (c) whether transport inspectors are experiencing difficulty in policing this new regulation?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (a) None.
- (b) None.
- (c) No.

Loss of Revenue to Railways Department

16. Mr. D. G. MAY asked the Minister for Railways:

Will he advise the anticipated yearly revenue loss to the W.A.G.R. resulting from the Government's recent decision to extend to 10 cwt. the amount of groceries permitted to be transported by road by country grocers, etc.?

Mr. BRAND (for Mr. Court) replied:
The estimated figure is £25,000.

NORTHERN RIVERS

Comparison of Flow

17. Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Has a comparison been made of the flow of water down the following rivers when they are in flood: Gascoyne, Fitzroy, Lennard, and Ord?

Gascoyne River: Salinity

- (2) What consideration has been given to the salt congregations in the waters which remain in the Gascoyne River after it has been in flood—particularly in the areas adjoining Jimba Jimba and Yinnietharra Stations?
- (3) Would such salinity have any effect on the security of a possible dam site in the Gascoyne River in the Kennedy Ranges?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Yes.

The flood flows are approximately in the following proportions:—

Lennard—1.
Gascoyne—2.
Fitzroy—4.5.
Ord—11.

- (2) Samples of water are taken at many points, including Jimba Jimba and Yinnietharra Stations, while the river is still flowing, after each flood, and also in pools when flow has ceased. Available information is being studied, but at present is incomplete.
- (3) The salinity aspect will be given due consideration in the investigations covering a possible dam on the Gascoyne River in the Kennedy Ranges.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

BROOME

Purchase of Barge

1. Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Premier:
- (1) (a) Is he aware that the residents of Broome are alarmed at the Government's proposal to purchase a barge to service Broome?
 - (b) Is he aware that a meeting of ratepayers is to be held shortly to protest against this proposal?
 - (c) Will the Premier assure the House that no further action will be taken in respect of this barge until the ratepayers of Broome are given an opportunity to express their views?

Construction of Deep-water Jetty

- (2) Has the Government yet decided when a start is to be made to construct a jetty in deep water at Broome?
- (3) If not, when is such a decision likely to be made? I might say here that I have had some eight telegrams from residents of Broome; and though my inquiries reveal that I cannot ask for leave to lay them on the Table of the House, I hope that later I shall have an opportunity to read them to members.

Mr. BRAND replied:

The honourable member gave notice of this question this morning. The answers are—

- (1) (a) and (b) A telegram reached my office just as I was coming out, and therefore I am aware of the situation in Broome,

and that it is the intention to hold a meeting. I am not aware, however, whether the Minister for the North-West has been advised.

(c) Any views of the local authority will be given consideration when received.

(2) No.

(3) No definite date can be given at this juncture. As previously advised, the matter has not been overlooked and the provision of a barge to reduce the present adverse effect of neap tides will not influence any decision on a jetty in deep water.

PRINCIPAL AND AGENT

Doctrine of Independent or Collateral Contract

2. Mr. EVANS: In asking the Premier this question I do so with the full knowledge that he replied to my previous question on the notice paper on behalf of the Minister who represents the Minister for Justice in another place. The question to which I refer is No. 5; and in the first part of that question I asked if there was any legislative action taken in this State to repeal a certain doctrine of law. The answer given was "No", and I was told to see the answer given to question No. 8 on the 1st August, 1962. That refers to an entirely different subject, and I assume that whoever provided the answer referred to question No. 7 of that day, which was of a similar nature, but not what I was asking about at all. Would the Premier therefore convey my remarks to the Minister for Justice so that an answer may be given at a subsequent date?

Mr. BRAND: I will certainly do that. In any case, the Minister for Industrial Development will be here shortly.

NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (W.A.) BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Brand (Treasurer), and read a first time.

BILLS (2): THIRD READING

1. Local Government Act Amendment Bill.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. Nalder (Minister for Agriculture), and returned to the Council with an amendment.

2. Totalisator Agency Board Betting Act Amendment Bill (No. 2).

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. Craig (Minister for Police), and transmitted to the Council.

BILLS OF SALE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Third Reading

MR. BRAND (Greenough — Premier) [2.37 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

Before this Bill is read a third time I would like to say that I obtained some information regarding the queries raised by the member for Kalgoorlie. In order that he may be better informed it might be as well for me not to read the views of the Crown Law Department, but to hand them to the honourable member for his perusal in reply to the matters he raised. If there are any other queries—and in view of the absence of the Minister representing the Minister for Justice—the necessary amendments could possibly be made in another place if required.

MR. EVANS (Kalgoorlie) [2.38 p.m.]: I would like to thank the Treasurer for having taken notice of my remarks the other evening, and for having obtained the information I required. I do feel that the queries I raised were important ones, and that they should not be left without some comment. Once again I thank the Treasurer for the information he obtained.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

LOAN ESTIMATES, 1962-63

In Committee

Resumed from the 25th September, the Chairman of Committees (Mr. I. W. Manning) in the Chair.

Vote: Railways, £4,551,000—

MR. ROWBERRY (Warren) [2.39 p.m.]: These Loan Estimates, which are estimates of expenditure that the State will incur on capital works in the next 12 months, provide an opportunity to members to put forward their ideas on economic policy and attendant matters; and, despite the fact that members generally might think that my ideas on economy and things of that nature are a bit far-fetched and idealistic, I am undeterred in my determination to bring my views before the Chamber, and to say what I think is the proper course that should be followed in dealing with economic and inflationary policies.

I have sent to me periodically a publication from the Institute of Public Affairs, 289 Flinders Lane, Melbourne; and despite

the fact that I disagree in the main with most of its propositions in regard to economic policy and the course we should adopt, I mean to read to members portion of an article headed "Sane Budgeting". I bring it to the notice of the Treasurer because this publication seems to adopt the idea that all of our monetary troubles and inflationary trends in Australia stem from the fact that the basic wage is too high.

I remember that when the Treasurer was introducing these Loan Estimates he said the basic wage in this State was higher than in the remainder of Australia, and that this caused him considerable difficulty in presenting his case to the Loan Council. I intend to quote portions of this article because it would appear that the orthodox economists do not know where they are going or where they have been, judging from what they write. Portion of the article is as follows:—

The advocates of much more rapid growth are accustomed to point to serious deficiencies and shortages in many areas of the Australian economy. There is, of course, nothing easier than to make a lengthy catalogue of all the things we should like to have more of. It is possible to think of a hundred and one things we need in Australia at the present time. But that can be done of any economy in the world. However, just to list our needs doesn't help very much. Economics has been defined as "the problem of the satisfaction of wants with scarce resources". In the foreseeable future, resources will never be sufficient for our needs. The real issue is how we can maximise our resources and put them to the best use. Certainly a policy of internal inflation is not the way to do it.

There is probably no economist in Australia to-day—although there were some a few years ago—who does not recognise that growth and development require an expanding volume of imports.

I want members to remember those last few words—"an expanding volume of imports." Continuing—

These increased imports—or resources—can generally only be obtained by more exports. But under today's conditions, as we have seen, inflation and rising costs would make it infinitely more difficult to build up our exports.

The proposition put forward here is that we can only pay for our imports by exports. Exports are imports to the country to which we send our exports; and what troubles me is that we in Australia have built up a credit balance in the United Kingdom of something like £350,000,000 by our exports, and yet the proposition is that imports can only be

paid for by exports. How did Britain build up that £350,000,000 worth of exports? What credit balance did it have in Australia to do that? So we see that even the orthodox economists do not appear to know where they are going or where they have come from.

If it is only possible to build up imports by exports, then tell me how Britain built up this great balance of £350,000,000 worth of imports from Australia when she had an adverse balance in Australia, as Australia has a credit balance with Britain. They do not answer that; but this journal, in another place, says it is going to publish a pamphlet entitled "How Prosperous are We?" and tell us how prosperous we are, and tell us how to become more prosperous.

What troubles me is that those who publish the journal are going to send free copies to every school in Australia. They are going to teach the children of Australia that because the basic wage in Australia is so high we cannot export to other countries. That is something which should be looked into, as I do not think any unauthorised publication dealing with political economy should be allowed, unchallenged, to be distributed amongst our schools.

Despite the fact that this article says there is nothing easier than to make out a lengthy catalogue of the things we would like to have more of, I intend to put forward some of the things we in the south-west area of the State would like to have more of. One thing we would like to have more of in the Warren area at the present time is employment. Because employment is caused by the spending of loan capital on capital works, I consider this is the appropriate time and the appropriate place to put these things forward.

In the report of the Royal Commissioner who recently inquired into the apple industry, it was stated that one of the ways in which the apple industry could reduce its costs would be for it to use cardboard cartons made from paper instead of the hardwood cases that are used at the present time. This is going to be the cause of great concern amongst the sawmillers in my area. In our economy it is not possible to save costs in one section of the community without the impact being felt in some other section; and the fact that the apple exporters are going to use cartons—small cartons and multiple cartons—for the packing of apples for export will reduce their costs accordingly and will mean that a certain number of people in the timber industry will inevitably lose their employment.

Therefore, we will reduce the best of all possible markets—the home market. I have figures before me which estimate that next year there will be something like 2,000,000 bushels of apples exported, which could have meant 2,000,000 bushel cases

which the timber industry in the south-west could have supplied to the apple industry. We are dependent on the Eastern States for the import of cardboard cases; and because of the lower price of these cases and certain other advantages the timber industry will suffer.

The making of apple cases is a very lucrative way of dealing with what in the timber industry are called smalls, which otherwise go over the fire shutes. The wings and small pieces of timber which are too small to be cut up into scantling for use as building timber can easily be adapted and cut into cases which are only $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick. What is somebody else's gain is a loss to the timber industry.

There is one way in which we can make up to the Warren area for the loss of this timber. I am not saying we should continue with the hardwood cases if they are found to be too costly or not as suitable as cardboard for the packing and keeping of apples for export. But I would suggest to the Government that the greatest amount of consideration should be given to establishing alternative industries in the Warren area. That area lends itself very economically to the establishment of a paper pulp mill. That would more than take up the slack in employment and would more than take up the slack in the loss from the sale of timber. It would also make further use of timber which is now being used for fruit cases.

I would draw the attention of the Minister for Industrial Development to the fact that the Warren area is not only economically, physically, and geographically well suited to the establishment of such a mill, but it has a prior claim by reason of the impact of recent events upon the economy of that district. The loss of the tobacco-growing industry, in which there are now six growers left out of 244; the loss of a shift at Pemberton; and the fact that 72 timber workers were retrenched just recently, should bring to mind the urgency of providing some alternative means of employing men who have been thrown out of work.

If private enterprise is unwilling or unable to do that, then I think it is the responsibility and prerogative of the Government to provide employment for these people. So, as the spokesman for them, I draw the Government's attention, and especially that of the Minister for Industrial Development, to the fact that this need should be borne in mind. I do not say it will come about tomorrow, or next week, or even next year, but there are districts with claims of their own for this type of industry; and I say that from any point of view the Warren area should have first preference.

In our area, too, we have certain towns which are without a reticulated water supply. I suppose we are not worse off than

several other areas in the State; but I would like to dispel the idea that because we in the south-west have an established rainfall of something like up to 60 inches a year in some areas, and an average of something like 45 inches for the area, water schemes are unnecessary. It should never be forgotten that this water falls in about four or five months of the year; and it is impossible for any private householder, by his own efforts, to conserve enough water by means of tanks to serve him for the remainder of the year. There is therefore the urgent need for amenities such as water, electricity, and so on.

I repeat what I said during the Address-in-Reply debate: that Northcliffe is one of those places—right at the end of the line—where people feel they are neglected; where they feel as though they are out of things. I say these are the people who should be considered with priority when allocations are being made for such amenities as water schemes and water reticulation. I am pleased to know that the Minister has completed his survey of the water potentiality in Northcliffe and that estimates will be obtained. I am hoping that by next year's Loan Estimates some allocation will be made for the purpose of providing a reticulated water scheme for Northcliffe.

I would also like to draw the attention of the House to the state of the timber industry in general. The industry has lost its markets in the Eastern States largely to American suppliers of imported timber. Several years ago two-thirds of our exports of timber went to the Eastern States, which were our largest market. We now have the spectacle that the Eastern States can import timber from America at a lower price than they can import timber from Western Australia. Some people say it is because of high freights; some say it is because of high costs of production; some say it is because of antiquated methods of production; and others, of course, have their own particular economic theory as to why we have lost those markets.

I draw the attention of members to this fact: that the American Government spends thousands of millions of dollars a year in subsidising exports. In fact, the American Government—the home of private enterprise—has indulged in subsidising exports, which is merely another form of socialism. Instead of socialising production the Americans have gone one better and are socialising distribution. In fact, we are travelling more and more along the road towards socialism. The European Common Market is an indication that private enterprise has failed in its efforts for effective and efficient distribution.

Recently I had the privilege of making a trip to Darwin and back on the State ship *Koolama*. As there is some reference made to State shipping in the Estimates,

I would like to pay a tribute to the officers and men of our State Shipping Service. In conversation on the ship, and in this Chamber since, I have heard it stated that the State ships are showing a loss. There are two ways in which we can improve returns in business: One is to increase efficiency, and the other is to charge more for what is being sold; and the State ships are selling service to the people in the north-west.

I observed the handling of cargo at every port between here and Darwin, both on the journey to Darwin and return, and I would say that no set of men could have handled the cargo more efficiently or expeditiously than did the crew and the wharflies at the various ports.

If we are going to increase our charges, I want to point out, as I pointed out in connection with another matter earlier, that there will be a snowballing effect in respect of basic wage rises and district allowances; and subsequently, when these matters come up for review before the Arbitration Court, we will find that the cost of living in the north-west will increase as the passenger fares and freight charges to the north-west are increased. So, here again, what we gain on the swings we lose on the roundabouts. We cannot impose restrictions upon one section of the community without another section suffering.

While I am dealing with the State Shipping Service I would like to say to the Government—to whichever Minister thinks he is the responsible Minister in this matter—that in Western Australia we have a surplus production of potatoes amounting to something like 5,000 to 10,000 tons per annum. It is becoming more and more difficult to quit this surplus in the Eastern States; and unfortunately the freights to South-East Asia are prohibitive. It costs from £18 to £20 a ton to land potatoes in Colombo, Mauritius, Hong Kong, and other such places.

I suggest that the Minister take a leaf out of the Americans' book and subsidise freights on the export of potatoes to the places I have mentioned. As it costs £20 a ton to ship potatoes from Fremantle to Hong Kong, it can be seen that very little is left from the average price of £27 10s. a ton which obtained last year. In fact, under those conditions, the grower would be exporting at a loss.

So I suggest to the Minister that, if it is possible, he load one of the State ships with potatoes and divert it to South-East Asia. By doing this he would be subsidising the freight charge; and I am convinced that by using our own ships in this way we could, as the member for Fremantle pointed out a few days ago, probably cut down the freight cost by 50 per cent. I leave that matter to the Minister for his

consideration, but I would like to see something done about it. Now that we have flaked or processed potatoes on the market in Australia—and the quantities will grow—we have to find some other way of quitting our surplus; and it would appear from present indications that there will be a large surplus of potatoes this year.

I now want to talk about the quality of some of the painting that has been done in State Housing Commission houses in my district. As members know, the painting jobs are let by tender. Apparently the tenderers are using paint of a very poor quality; because, within a few months, the paint has peeled completely off some of these houses. This stems from the fact that when tenders are called the tenderers primarily and mainly tender so that they can make a profit; they are not at all concerned with the general effect of their painting. There appears to be no way of checking whether the paint, when it is in the tins, is of good quality, and apparently the inspections that have been carried out have been inefficient, because it would seem that the priming coat has been omitted altogether.

So I draw the attention of the Minister for Housing to the fact that the painters who do these unsatisfactory jobs should not have their tenders—no matter how low they are—considered. Even though we may save a few pounds on a tender, I consider that if the paint is not going to last for the specified number of years—four to five years—we will, by accepting the tender, make a distinct loss.

I have already dealt with reticulated water supplies. I would say that in the south-west we get most of our rain during four or five months of the year; and the greatest area of State forests is situated there, and we are establishing more and more softwood forests for paper pulping and other projects. A scheme for water conservation in the south-west, both with regard to forests and primary production—potatoes, orchards, etc.—should be considered. Water conservation would be of great advantage both in respect of producing crops and protecting crops.

At certain times of the year it is necessary to have access to unlimited water for the purpose of fire-fighting; and we know the devastation that recent fires caused in our timber areas. I think the time has now come when we should cease depending on Mother Nature and should make provision throughout the whole State for the conservation of water.

The subject of water is continuously under discussion. It has been the main theme of many controversial debates in this Chamber, but I do not think anyone would disagree with the fact that something like seven-eighths of the water that falls on our land at the present time runs off into the sea.

It has been estimated that an inch of rainfall on an acre of ground is equal to 100 tons of water. With water weighing 10 lb. to the gallon, approximately 1,000,000 gallons of water would fall on every acre of ground with each 50 inches of rainfall. On such figures we can realise the millions of gallons that are running to waste in the south-west area every year. This water could easily be conserved, and it is vital that it should be conserved. Those are only a few of my ideas on the advancement of the State in general and my own electorate in particular.

MR. W. A. MANNING (Narrogin) [3.12 p.m.]: This year's Loan Estimates provide interesting reading in regard to the way the loan funds are to be allocated. Every one of us in this Chamber, I should imagine, is concerned that the amount of loan funds is not as great as it should be. There should be more funds made available for expenditure on loan works. It seems entirely unfair that the State's proportion of loan funds should be based on figures which work out unfairly for a State of this size, especially in its present stage of development. Yet we cannot blame the Premiers of other States when they refuse to agree to a different form of allocation which would mean that if this State's proportion of loan funds were increased their proportions would be decreased.

However, some move should be made to increase our loan fund allocation. I am sure the Treasurer realises the position more than anyone else, and some action should be taken through this place to support him in a move to increase the allocation of loan funds to Western Australia, no matter which way it is done. Of necessity, it would seem there must be an increase in the allocation of loan funds to Western Australia before a new formula is worked out. Under this new formula cognisance should be taken of this State's capacity for growth and the way it is developing at present without any other State having to give anything away. I do not know how this can be achieved—perhaps by a deputation to the Commonwealth or by some other means.

Mr. Jamieson: Do not suggest an all-party committee because it would not get there.

MR. W. A. MANNING: Is the honourable member suggesting he would not be prepared to go on it?

Mr. Jamieson: I would be prepared to go on it, but it would never get there.

MR. W. A. MANNING: I do not care how the action is taken as long as the Treasurer obtains some form of backing in his request for an increase in the State's proportion of loan funds from the Commonwealth.

One interesting feature of this year's Loan Estimates is that the allocation for Commonwealth-State housing has been increased from £3,000,000 to £3,607,000. I am going to suggest that that increase of £607,000 should be spent where it is most needed; that is, in the country areas of this State where the housing position is absolutely dreadful. In the country areas no houses are built on a speculative basis as they are in the metropolitan area, and therefore something must be done through the State Housing Commission to provide more homes in the country districts. As I have said, if the whole of the increase in the housing allocation of the loan funds were spent in the country, it would be well spent, and we would realise how badly the country needs houses at the present time.

I notice also that the capital of the Rural and Industries Bank is to be increased by £200,000 in one instance for additional capital and an additional amount of £225,000 is marked for advances to primary and secondary industries. It is not clear how the £200,000 shall be spent. I suppose it will be left to the discretion of the commissioners to be spent in any way they deem advisable. However, the £225,000 is for primary and secondary industry. This does not seem very much and would lend support for presenting a case for increased loan funds, because the demand for assistance to industry and primary production would be far in excess of the whole total of £225,000.

I consider that considerable increases in capital should be advanced to those engaged in primary industry who have the know-how, but insufficient capital to go beyond the point they have reached. There are many men who have been on the land for three or four years and have spent the whole of their capital without reaching the point of production. They are in the position that they are just ready to jump ahead but they have not sufficient capital to carry on and therefore cannot overcome the hurdle. It should be the responsibility of somebody or some authority to provide funds for them.

In past years there was a system in existence for providing funds for young men who were in such a position. I think the advances were made from the old Agricultural Bank. These men were granted a certain sum of money when they produced evidence that they had made certain improvements to their properties. Surely something along those lines could be done again without the entanglements that applied in those days. Perhaps advances could be made through the Rural and Industries Bank.

I realise that the amount allocated in the loan funds this year would not be sufficient to go very far, but even if some money were used to go only a short distance to help those in difficulty—that is,

those who have the know-how but insufficient capital—it would be a great help. It would tide those men over from that stage of development to the stage of production. Those are my comments on the Loan Estimates for this year, and I hope something can be done to implement the suggestions I have made.

MR. CURRAN (Cockburn) [3.19 p.m.]: There are some points in respect not only of my own electorate, but also of the State generally, which I feel I should mention in debating this year's Loan Estimates. One of the most important factors is the reduction in the allocation of money to the State Housing Commission. In this Chamber only recently questions were asked, and Press articles quoted, by several members on the plight of pensioners in this State. That population not only in Western Australia, but also in the other States, will be growing older as the years pass. No great programme has been formulated to overcome this problem; in fact, the vote to the State Housing Commission has been reduced by £400,000.

I have asked questions in this Chamber relating to the waiting period for houses provided by the commission. The answer given to me in recent weeks was that this waiting period was from 1½ to two years. That being the case, how can the waiting period be caught up with if the vote to the commission is £400,000 less than it was?

Mr. Brand: That is only the amount out of the loan funds. The extra £500,000 will come from somewhere else.

Mr. CURRAN: The fact remains there is an amount of £400,000 less being provided in the Loan Estimates. The great feature about the policy of this Government is that it makes housing accommodation available almost immediately to tradesmen from overseas, yet it has been admitted by the Minister in this place, who represents the Minister for Housing that the waiting period for housing is 1½ to two years in the case of tradesmen in this State.

The tradesmen in Western Australia are not only being stifled in regard to housing, but they are also being treated unfairly when compared with tradesmen who have been imported from other countries. Surely it is unfair for a tradesman who has been imported from another country to receive housing accommodation immediately on his arrival, when the Western Australian tradesman has to wait a long period.

Mr. Brand: This State has to have additional tradesmen in order to absorb the unskilled labourers.

Mr. CURRAN: With the way things are going in Western Australia, all our tradesmen will finish up in the other States because we are not making housing accommodation available to them.

Mr. Brand: Don't talk nonsense!

Mr. CURRAN: They are being treated unfairly as compared with tradesmen imported from other parts of the world.

Mr. Brand: If that is the situation, why are there so many strikes at the present time?

Mr. CURRAN: I can answer that quite easily. There are instances in Kwinana where tradesmen from the Eastern States are brought over by air, and are being paid £3 to £4 a week more than is paid to the local tradesmen working in Kwinana. The Premier cannot dispute this statement, because it has been exposed in the recent dispute. That will answer the Premier's question.

Mr. Brand: I cannot argue with you, because I have no way of proving whether you are right or wrong.

Mr. CURRAN: It would be quite easy to get another statement.

Mr. Brand: From whom?

Mr. CURRAN: I can obtain the statement and present it to the Premier.

Mr. Jamieson: From the people who are getting the money.

Mr. Brand: What about the people who are paying the money?

Mr. Jamieson: They will give one too.

Mr. CURRAN: One other matter I want to bring before the Government is the proposed increase in freight rates applying to ships serving the north-west. This question is very important to Western Australia, to the Commonwealth, and particularly to the people of the north-west. It is no surprise to know that any Government pioneering a State shipping service to the north-west or a railway service in Western Australia should show losses.

The Railways Department did much for this State in establishing spur lines in centres which did not produce a sufficient return to the railways, commercially. The department was instrumental in developing this State to such an extent that prosperous wheat farms have been established and are producing to the full scale in areas where no private railway company would have established lines. No private company will establish a spur line merely for the purpose of opening up the country; it will do so on the basis of profit, and profit only. So great credit should be given to the W.A.G.R. for the way it has developed this State.

The same remarks can be applied to the State Shipping Service, and here is a complete parallel to the Railways Department in the development of the State. No private shipping company could, under any circumstances, run vessels to develop an area which has been very sparsely populated since the early days. It is only through the State Shipping Service that the north-west has developed to the stage

it has reached at the present time. If freight rates are increased development will be retarded there. I have no objection to increasing fares of passengers or tourists, but I do take exception to increasing the freight rates to the north-west.

We are asking for more money from the Commonwealth Government for the purpose of developing the north-west; but we then cancel out the opportunity for such development by increasing the freight rates. In doing so it will be more difficult to develop the north-west, and the increased freights will impose an extra burden on the people of that area by directly increasing the cost of goods.

Mr. Brand: What is the answer to that?

Mr. CURRAN: The answer is this: Adopt the practice that has been adopted by the W.A.G.R. for years. There was no hope of running the Railways Department at a profit, because the railways were developing the country, which returned a profit to the State indirectly, without showing any great financial figure of profit. The material development of this State was assisted by the policy of the Railways Department, although it was continually showing losses; but these figures of losses have no relationship to the great development which took place in this State.

I say it is wrong to increase the freight rates to the north-west, because by doing so we will stultify what we are attempting to achieve. On the one hand we are attempting to develop the north-west by asking the Commonwealth Government for more funds; but on the other hand it is proposed to increase the freight rates and thus impose a burden on the people living in the north-west. That is not the way to develop this area; the only way is for both the State and the Commonwealth Governments to do everything possible to assist those pioneering the north-west, without placing any further burden on them.

Mr. Brand: Where is the Government to get the money from in order to do that?

Mr. CURRAN: Money is not a very important factor if a serious attempt is made to achieve certain ends. That has been proved throughout the ages.

Mr. Brand: What a Treasurer you would make!

Mr. Court: You should go before the Grants Commission and give evidence.

Mr. CURRAN: There is no worry on the part of the State, the Commonwealth, or any other Government in the world to find the necessary money when there is a military crisis. At such times money is no object, and it is raised quite easily. Billions of pounds are spent on the destruction of mankind, but when it comes to the development of the resources of mankind it appears no money is available.

Another matter I want to mention concerns the establishment of industries in Western Australia. I hope the Minister has seen this report and will give some consideration to it; it is a report on the development of a sardine industry in Western Australia.

I have talked to the local fishermen at Fremantle and I have been told on good authority that the continental shelf around Western Australia is absolutely teeming with millions of pounds of sardines. The cost of importing sardines into Western Australia must be colossal, and if we are going to establish overseas companies in Western Australia we should also assist in the establishment of local industries. I believe this is a matter which could be tackled by the Government, or at least the Government could give some consideration to the establishment of an industry of this nature in Western Australia.

Mr. Brand: Would the sardines you are talking of be of a standard to compete with the quality of sardines from other parts of the world?

Mr. CURRAN: I do not know whether an article I have here has already been quoted in the House. However, I will read it. It appeared in *The West Australian*—I do not know the date—and is as follows:—

Big Catch of Sardines to Become Bait.

A haul of sardines, estimated at 40,000 lb., was made on Sunday night and yesterday morning by two Fremantle crayboats.

The boats, Adriatic and Silvery Wave, netted the fish about ten miles north of Fremantle while using a £1,500 sardine net imported from Italy.

The Adriatic's skipper, Mr. Fedele Vinci, of Fremantle, said that the fish were apparently available in huge quantities.

At present no real market existed for them, but one day they could be a valuable source of food for Asian nations.

The sardines were taken to Robb Jetty yesterday for freezing.

Some may go to the Eastern States as bait for amateur anglers, and others may be used for crayfish bait.

The fish are about 6 in. long, and similar to the now scarce mule mackerel used locally by amateur fishermen.

They are said to be true sardines, but are much bigger than the sardines imported in cans.

In June, 1961, the Fremantle fishing boats Dante and F200 made the first commercial haul of sardines off Fremantle.

It was a catch of about three tons near Rottnest.

I am no authority on the canning or curing of sardines but I cannot for the life of me see why the situation could not be investigated.

Mr. Brand: It is being investigated.

Mr. CURRAN: I am sorry. I did not know.

Mr. Court: It was being investigated long before that announcement was made.

Mr. CURRAN: I heard that some years ago negotiations between the local fishermen and the Government had been in progress, but that nothing had eventuated. But if the Minister tells me the matter is being investigated, I am very pleased.

Mr. Jamieson: We were canning them before, but we did not have the right-shaped cans. They were considered the best sardines obtainable.

Mr. CURRAN: Another matter which I have mentioned many times before is the rehabilitation of South Beach. I am very pleased to know that the Premier has been to Fremantle to see for himself the erosion which has taken place at South Beach, and to investigate other problems at Fremantle. I have here a letter I received from the Minister for Works in regard to this matter. It was dated the 24th September, 1962, and is as follows:—

Dear Sir,

Following the deputation to me from the Fremantle Sailing Club I have had a look at proposals on the spot at Fremantle.

Alternative suggestions were considered but before I was in a position to make a decision I obtained some information about proposed Railway Works in the area.

I am enclosing for your information a copy of a letter sent to the Fremantle Sailing Club.

The enclosed letter is as follows:—

Dear Sir,

You will remember that at a conference with me certain proposals put forward by your Club for the provision of new mooring pens, etc., were discussed. A little later some thought was given to providing minimum facilities equivalent to what your Club had before work on the Fishing Boat Harbour was commenced at the foot of the existing groyne. It is possible that these minimum facilities might require the construction of a small groyne to stabilise any renourished beach in that area.

However before I made a decision it came to my knowledge that the Railway Department is currently investigating a proposal to reclaim a section of the foreshore immediately south—

and I emphasise the words "immediately south"—

—of the Fishing Boat Harbour to provide a new site for the Fremantle Railway Marshalling Yards.

Should the Railway Department decide to proceed with this work it will not be possible to consider either the major scheme proposed by your Club or the smaller scheme later considered by me. It would be advisable therefore for your Club to carry on during the coming season under the same temporary arrangements as last year pending some decision on the Railway Department proposal.

Last year the Harbours and Rivers Branch of my Department provided a temporary track to the water's edge on the southern end of the enclosed area immediately north of the breakwater and I have arranged that the same facilities be made available this year.

That completely stunned me because I felt quite happy that something was going to be done with respect to South Beach following a conversation between His Worship the Mayor of Fremantle and the Premier. However, as I emphasised when reading the letter, the Minister for Works mentioned the words "immediately south of the Fishing Boat Harbour". That portion clashes with South Fremantle beach proper itself—or what remains of it. I understood that the Premier, when in conversation with the mayor, gave his assurance that something would be done.

Mr. Brand: So it will be.

Mr. CURRAN: I am very pleased to hear that from the Premier. But the important feature of it is that if marshalling yards are going to be built immediately south of the present fishing boat harbour I fail to see how any rehabilitation of the beach would be possible.

I am sure the Premier will agree with me, having seen the area, that the most important part of the beach is that immediately south of the present fishing boat harbour, and I know that the people down there are very perturbed about the possibility of marshalling yards being established there. Consequently I hope that the Premier, in conjunction with the Minister for Works and the Minister for Railways, will see what can be done in respect of improving the facilities in that area. That is all I wish to state at the moment, and I hope that the last portion of my speech particularly will be given some consideration by the Minister concerned.

MR. RHATIGAN (Kimberley) [3.38 p.m.]: I had intended to speak only on the general Estimates, but I take this opportunity of airing the views of the residents and business people of Broome regarding the proposed purchase of a barge, reference to which is made in the Estimates.

I asked a question regarding this particular item and was told by the the Minister for the North-West that the cost of the barge would be some £20,000. I sent

a copy of my question and the answer to the Shire Council of Broome and, as a result, I received a sheath of telegrams. As it is not the privilege of a private member to be able to table papers in order that they might be made public, I am taking the opportunity this afternoon, with your indulgence, Mr. Chairman, and the indulgence of members, to read these telegrams. The first is addressed to me at Parliament House and is as follows:—

Request you make every effort to stop Government purchasing barge to serve Broome cargo handling.

(Sgd.) Von Nightingall.

The next, addressed to me, is as follows:—

Your attention to Government purchase of barge for Broome cargo handling your vigorous protest requested against its purchase.

(Sgd.) Nightingall.

Mr. Brand: With your nature you could not be nasty about it.

Mr. RHATIGAN: I never am; I am a bit like yourself, Mr. Premier. The third telegram reads as follows:—

We strongly protest against proposal station barge at Broome considering this a retrograde step in view encouraging outlook chilled beef exports and revised Maunsell recommendation for deep water jetty also shipping service with forthcoming Kangaroo should have sufficient vessels serve Broome adequately without delays by neap tides.

(sgd.) Broome Progress Association.

The next telegram reads—

View present proposal introduction refrigerated barge for port Broome with great misgivings stop Consequent inconvenience to merchants and citizens Broome will inevitably result stop Confidence and enterprise town will dwindle stop Established business concerns feel very strongly against such move request action on our behalf regards.

(sgd.) W. B. Ellies.

The next one reads—

Strongly protest on proposed installation of barge at Broome as being totally unpracticable.

(sgd.) Walsh Roebuck Motors.

Another one reads—

Request you and colleagues do utmost to squash insane ridiculous idea of barge for Broome.

(sgd.) Ed Gould.

Mr. H. May: That is telling them!

Mr. Brand: Who wrote that one?

Mr. RHATIGAN: Mr. Ed. Gould. The next telegram is more like a letter, and I think the Premier received a copy of it. It reads as follows:—

Have telegraphed Premier today quote I am instructed under section 171 (3) Local Government Act to call meeting of ratepayers to most strongly protest against the stationing of barge in Broome and failure of Government to allocate funds for new jetty stop Towns people consider this backdoor method of avoiding construction new jetty stop Consider meeting will be most angry and respectfully suggest you make Minister available to attend stop Special meeting of council has appointed 22nd October for ratepayers meeting at 8 p.m. unquote Town feeling is very high request your assistance in getting definite dates new jetty and new hospital regards.

(sgd.) Farrell.

Mr. Farrell is chairman of the shire council. I now come to the last of the telegrams, and it reads—

Is barge intended for combined ops idea one of backward children.

(sgd.) Jack Knox.

I also have a letter which I think will be of interest to the Committee, and I hope members will bear with me while I read it. This proposed barge is of vital importance to the people of Broome, and it is my duty to put their case before the House; and there is no better method of conveying their ideas than by reading this letter—

Box 42, P.O.,
Broome, W.A.
2nd October, 1962.

Mr. J. J. Rhatigan, M.L.A.,
Parliament House,
Perth, W.A.

Dear Jack,

I am so disturbed by current trends affecting this section of West Kimberley that I feel compelled to appeal on a personal plane direct to you as our Member.

In recent months there have been many discouraging signs indicating that the present Liberal C.P. coalition see Broome as an unnecessary name on the map.

Let me briefly summarise a few of the unfulfilled promises given to the townspeople of Broome, lending credence to the opinion just stated:—

- (1) A new jetty in deep water.
- (2) An upgraded road south of the Fitzroy River, linking Halls Creek and Broome.
- (3) A new Hospital.

To view the situation in its true perspective it must be remembered the projects mentioned above were

brought forward at a Public Meeting in the Shire Hall of Broome at which the Premier went on record as saying a jetty in deep water, as distinct from a fully fledged deep water port, was a reasonable suggestion which justified every consideration.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.7 p.m.

Mr. RHATIGAN: Before the afternoon tea suspension I was reading a letter, and I think a portion of it I should read again because of certain promises the Premier made when in Broome. These statements appear in the minutes of the Shire Council at Broome, and the letter states—

To view the situation in its true perspective it must be remembered the projects mentioned above were brought forward at a public meeting in the Shire Hall of Broome at which the Premier went on record as saying a jetty in deep water, as distinct from a fully fledged deep water port, was a reasonable suggestion which justified every consideration.

I have seen the minutes of that particular meeting, and what is said is quite true. The letter continues—

The proposed road south of the river as an adjunct to such a jetty was also conceded a sound proposition especially as it would not entail calling upon any portion of the Commonwealth grant for Kimberley road construction. It will be recalled the Commissioner of Main Roads readily admitted the cost of the road could be met from departmental funds and intimated an early start could be made on the necessary survey.

That also is on the minutes of the Shire Council of Broome. To continue—

Our fight for a new modern hospital as you are aware has been going on for many years, until the stage was recently reached where a definite undertaking was reportedly given to the Shire Council that a 26-bed air-conditioned hospital would be provided this financial year.

Consider now the situation as it appears today. The new jetty has apparently been indefinitely postponed—once more. In its place, we have heard of a fantastic suggestion to station a refrigerated barge at Broome, costing £20,000 to serve our needs, when neap tides prevent vessels berthing. This is the most flagrant piece of misleading nonsense to come our way in a generation.

Firstly who is the genius who can build a seaworthy refrigerated barge for £20,000?

Secondly who will operate and maintain it and at what cost?

Thirdly, has a thought been given to the hazards involved—apart from the extra handling of highly perishable cargoes in unfavourable weather?

Fourthly the public of Broome who are directly concerned were not even given an opportunity to express their opinion on such an ill-conceived scheme, which cannot have a hope of meeting the exacting requirements. Suffice to say it has been attempted many times in the past and invariably frozen foods and perishables have suffered in the process.

But the vital factor is the ugly implication behind this retrograde step—that is Broome will never see a jetty in deep water. I say this, and many others agree, despite the promising future of chilled beef exports and the unquestionable value of Broome as a deep water outlet to the near and far eastern countries.

My belief is confirmed by rather intangible factors not the least of which is the indecent haste with which this Government is lavishing money on projects in Derby, projects which were not even thought of by the responsible citizens of that town.

The most shameful item in this category is the decision to build a three-storey building at the Derby Hospital to accommodate 27 nurses with provision for the ultimate luxury of a private swimming pool. Not a hint of this proposal appeared in the Press until the Minister for Health announced tenders would shortly be called for its construction. Do we hear a mention of Broome?

In writing in this strain I lay myself open to a charge of parochialism and narrow-mindedness, but this I refute. The people of Broome do not begrudge Derby anything—all we ask is a fair deal for this pleasant town today—we are prepared to let the natural course of events take care of the future. And surely there must be other isolated centres in the State more urgently in need of a hospital than is Derby of a hostel with a swimming pool for 27 nurses!

The upgraded road south of the Fitzroy would not have placed any great strain on the Government had they not been blind to anything but the access roads to Mt. House and Glenroy, and I believe that there are many aspects of this much publicised scheme which have not seen the light of day.

There is, inevitably, a strong revulsion against men in high office who dismiss in such an offhand manner,

their publicly-stated "intentions"—promise is a word not in favour just now.

The logical conclusion and one that is becoming increasingly accepted locally is that the Liberal Government is "buying" the Kimberley seat and that Labor is hesitant to oppose them for fear of alienating supporters. This latter view may be grossly unfair as most of us realise *The West Australian* will not give the Labor members an opportunity to publicly express their opinions on such Liberal projects as should rightly be openly debated.

Finally, I would like you to know the people of Broome are not going to accept this gesture of contempt without vigorous protest. A meeting of ratepayers will be held shortly to denounce the Government's intention as hypocrisy and to demand the consideration this potential deep seaport justly deserves.

No Government could surely recommend such a farcical suggestion as a barge to "temporarily" solve the problem posed by the tidal characteristics of this port. You are no doubt aware Maunsel & Co. have revised their original plan for Broome and now advocate a deep water jetty near Entrance Point to cost approximately £600,000. The logical course should be to make an early start on such a reasonable project and I can assure you that anything the Labor Party can do to halt this absurd business of the barge would have the unqualified support of the permanent residents of Broome.

Mr. Brand: Would a decision not to have the barge solve the problem?

Mr. RHATIGAN: The problem could be solved by the construction of a jetty in deep water, instead of throwing away money on the old jetty.

Mr. Jamieson: Your assurance to the council will solve the problem.

Mr. Brand: I realise that; but I didn't say anything about a barge.

Mr. RHATIGAN: To continue with the letter—

Time does not permit me at this juncture to bring forward other just grievances but I cannot end this letter without recording an objection—shared by many—to the decision to station the Administrator of the North at Derby. Surely Broome has the greater advantage of a more central situation and infinitely more pleasant natural amenities and living conditions. Derby did not need such

a boost to maintain its stability—Broome sorely does, but obviously we can expect no assistance—

and this is very important—"we can expect no assistance"—

—from a Minister whose ego was badly bruised by the Local Shire Council not so very long ago.

I do not know who the Minister might be, but I could hazard a rough guess. The letter continues—

Already there are rumours of the magisterial and police inspector's offices being re-located in Derby and we feel entitled to condemn these reported moves as denials of common sense and bereft of any considerations for the persons and families involved.

However, the emphasis is on Derby, the Ord scheme and anything deemed likely to bring in the votes. The unpalatable pill left for us to swallow is that even if there is a change at the next elections, it will be too late to halt the inspired stampede to the Brand-new Capital of the Kimberleys.

Yours sincerely,
(Sgd.) J. Kennedy.

There is no doubt in my mind whatever that before a barge is bought to service Broome the people in that town should be consulted—

Mr. Jamieson: And not insulted.

Mr. RHATIGAN: And not insulted, as the member for Beeloo has just said. The people who live there should have been given an opportunity to say to the Minister for the North-West whether or not the barge would serve a useful purpose. After all is said and done, who would be better qualified than the residents of Broome to say whether or not a barge would serve their purpose?

It is a disgrace and an insult to the people of Broome, and for that reason I have aired this matter very strongly. As I have said, and as I must stress, they are the residents of the town, and it is those in the district who would know, better than people sitting in office chairs in Perth, whether a barge is necessary or not. I ask the Minister for the North-West to delay action on this matter of a barge until such time as the business people of Broome, and the man-in-the-street of Broome, are given an opportunity to express their views on the desirability or otherwise of a barge.

There are a couple of other items with which I would like to deal briefly. One of these is the increase in fares in the State Shipping Service. Not having the items of expenditure with me I do not know where these increases will be made. It is, however, undoubtedly a retrograde step to increase freights and fares on these ships which serve the people of the north-west so well. I know the Grants Commission has recommended something along these

lines. But after all is said and done, the State Shipping Service is the very lifeblood of the people of the north-west, and if we are going to do this sort of thing we might just as well give the north away altogether.

The running and the administration of the State Shipping Service have been the subject of criticism in the past. But I would like to place on record my view of the marvellous job done by this instrumentality. Having lived in the north I have travelled on these ships on many occasions, and there is not the slightest doubt that they have done a most wonderful and worth-while job.

Another point on which I would like to touch is the provision of the courthouse and the police offices at Wyndham. It would appear that some person sitting in an office chair in Perth, by way of amusing himself saw fit to cut off 2½ feet from the building to be provided for the courthouse and the police offices, which has resulted in a restriction of the space available, and of the needs of Wyndham not being met in this direction. I would suggest to the Minister for Works and the Minister for the North-West that the courthouse and police offices be located on the site of the present public works block; and that the public works offices be transferred to that of the new courthouse and police offices.

Mr. Brand: Is this at Wyndham?

Mr. RHATIGAN: Yes. The original plans were cut down by some 2½ feet; and this made a big difference to the building, which is now quite inadequate. Apart from this, it is not ideally situated as, when walking across the street from the gaol to the courthouse and *vice versa*, one must pass the hotel. My suggestion, therefore, is to transfer the offices of the Public Works Department to the site of the new courthouse and police building, and build the courthouse and police office accommodation on the present public works site. I leave that thought with the Premier in the hope that some action will be taken. In conclusion I also trust that consideration will be given to the views of the rate-payers and residents of Broome before any attempt is made to purchase a barge for that area.

MR. TONKIN (Melville—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [4.25 p.m.]: I would like to support the member for Cockburn in the remarks he made concerning the provision of houses in this State, in view of the fact that no additional provision has been made for the migrant tradesmen who have been brought here, and who are being accommodated at the expense of those people who are already here.

Mr. Brand: Anybody in opposition would, of course, take advantage of this one. One does not have to be a political genius to know that this is a political problem.

Mr. TONKIN: What is the Premier talking about?

Mr. Brand: I am telling you just that.

Mr. TONKIN: Thus early in the piece the Premier is becoming a little petulant. I have only uttered two or three phrases.

Mr. Brand: I am just telling you. It needs no great brain to take advantage of that situation.

Mr. TONKIN: I will tell the Premier a little more.

Mr. Brand: I expect you will.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): Order!

Mr. TONKIN: I will tell the Premier a little more, which apparently he does not like. Of course, there is one thing about criticism: If it is justifiable, as it is in this case, and it hits a sore spot, it is always difficult to take—as the Premier is now indicating.

The point I wanted to make was that I drew the Premier's attention to the fact that it would be necessary to make some special provision before this trade mission went abroad. The answer I was given was that the position was being watched. When I suggested that did not get us very far, the Premier reminded me that on some previous occasion I had given a similar answer. But that does not provide houses for migrants.

Mr. Brand: I did not say it did.

Mr. TONKIN: The important thing is that the houses and the accommodation which will be provided for the migrant tradesmen will be at the expense of our own people who have been on the waiting list for a long time. When I drew attention to this matter I quoted figures that had been supplied to me authoritatively, and mentioned that even in emergent cases some considerable time had to elapse before those people were satisfied with accommodation.

Mr. Brand: Unless you had sufficient money to provide everybody on the waiting list, even those who had called for houses the day before the mission went away, you would have the difficult situation of tradesmen—skilled men and priority men—getting houses as a result of being specialists, as against men who have already put their names on the list.

Mr. TONKIN: When I raised this question the Premier sought to convey the impression that the Government was alive to the situation—

Mr. Brand: Very much so.

Mr. TONKIN: —and would take the requisite action.

Mr. Brand: Yes.

Mr. TONKIN: But the fact remains that nothing has been done because the Premier says he cannot do it.

Mr. Brand: Don't talk nonsense!

Mr. TONKIN: The Premier has just said so.

Mr. Brand: No I didn't!

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): Order!

Mr. TONKIN: The remarks the Premier uttered a few seconds ago indicated he could do nothing about it.

Mr. Brand: Nothing of the sort!

Mr. TONKIN: After having indicated that he was watching the situation, I would have assumed he was doing so with a view to taking the requisite action.

Mr. Brand: And we are taking the requisite action.

Mr. TONKIN: The fact remains that nothing additional has been done whatever as compared to what would have been done if no single migrant tradesman was being brought to the country.

Mr. Brand: That is hearsay.

Mr. TONKIN: That is a true state of affairs. Not one single thing in addition has been done to meet the situation that has been created by bringing those migrant tradesmen here.

Mr. Brand: It certainly has.

Mr. TONKIN: Therefore they are being housed—and they should be housed—at the expense of our own people: our own tradesmen in many cases who have had applications in for a considerable time, and some of whom are already on the emergent list. I think that is not good enough.

Mr. Brand: How many are there on the emergent list?

Mr. TONKIN: I cannot tell the Premier. He is in a better position to get the figures than I am.

Mr. Brand: You are making sweeping statements.

Mr. TONKIN: They are not sweeping statements.

Mr. Brady: I know of a woman today who was told she would have to wait two years.

Mr. Brand: In your time she would have had to wait three years.

Mr. Brady: Don't talk nonsense!

Mr. Brand: Figures have been produced in this Chamber.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): Order! We will have one speech at a time. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition may proceed.

Mr. TONKIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your protection. It looked as though I was getting into heavy weather. It is clear this has the Premier on the spot—

Mr. Brand: No, not the slightest bit.

Mr. Graham: Spaniards before Western Australians.

Mr. TONKIN: —and rightly so, too, because he has been forced to admit he was watching the position. That is all he is doing—still watching.

Mr. Brand: He is doing more than that about it.

Mr. TONKIN: He is watching the housing position whilst our own people get pushed further and further back down the line.

Mr. Bovell: That is rubbish.

Mr. TONKIN: That is the truth. It must be if the Government does not do an additional thing to provide more houses and there is a waiting list already. How on earth can the Government house newcomers without that being done at the expense of those already on the list?

Mr. Brand: The Minister for Housing informs me that the list—

Mr. TONKIN: Has the Minister for Lands a solution for that?

Mr. Graham: Not by building houses.

Mr. Brand: Presumably it is houses we are talking about.

Mr. Graham: By juggling figures.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): Order!

Mr. TONKIN: If the Minister for Housing can solve the problem which I have just outlined I suggest he go post-haste to the Treasurer's office tomorrow to let him know how to do it. But in all my experience I have never known how it is possible to provide newcomers with houses without any additional provision being made without that being done at the expense of people already in the queue.

Mr. Brand: Additional provision has been made.

Mr. TONKIN: No! You admitted a moment ago you could not do it; and, as a matter of fact, we know you have not done it.

Mr. Court: There is such a thing as a private sector which is building houses.

Mr. TONKIN: Of course there is. But is the Minister for Industrial Development, who has now come to the Premier's aid, in a position to provide figures to prove that contention?

Mr. Court: Every inquiry I have made indicates the private sector is stimulating the building of houses.

Mr. TONKIN: Inquiries I have made indicate!

Mr. Court: So they have.

Mr. TONKIN: I will be pleased to hear from the Minister for Industrial Development next week comparative figures—which he is in a position to obtain—to prove his contention. If he will get them and bring them next week—

Mr. Court: The private sector is more active than ever.

Mr. TONKIN: I suggest there is an obligation on the Minister to supply this information next week; and if he neglects to do it—as I think he will, because in my view he cannot prove it—I am entitled to assume that he has spoken out of turn.

Mr. Brand: That is typically your logic.

Mr. TONKIN: All the Minister for Industrial Development has to do is come forward with the figures.

Mr. Court: You are putting forward the proposition that if the Government does not build houses then there are no houses. That is nonsense.

Mr. TONKIN: I did not put forward that proposition at all; and how can the Minister for Industrial Development know what proposition I put forward when he was not in the House when I said it?

Mr. Court: I was listening to you. I do not have to come in here to hear you.

Mr. Graham: If the private sector is doing it, why doesn't the private sector supply the houses for these migrants?

Mr. Court: It is supplying a few.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): The honourable member must address the Chair; and if there are any more unruly interjections I will have to take drastic action.

Mr. TONKIN: Thank you again, Mr. Chairman. I have not much more to say on this question, because there is no satisfactory answer from the Government on it.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): I hope the honourable member is not hoping to obtain answers by way of interjection.

Mr. TONKIN: I am hoping I will not get an answer at all now. I want to be allowed to make my speech. That is why I am on my feet. I am telling the Government that whilst its desires and objectives are laudable in connection with trying to meet the requirement in the State for tradesmen, there is an obligation on it to do something extra to provide accommodation for them, but not accommodate them at the expense of people already here; and when I attempted to get something done in good time about it I was fobbed off with the statement that the position was being watched. What on earth that will do for people who want houses, I do not know. The Premier dodged the issue at the time and said that the position was being watched.

That is all that has happened; and not a single thing additional has been done by the Government. Then the Minister for Industrial Development sought to solve the problem by saying it is being done by the private sector. He has yet to prove that, Mr. Chairman, and I will await the proof with interest.

I asked some questions with regard to a loan of £150,000 which the Treasurer announced was to be raised by the Metropolitan Water Supply Department, which it was going to get from the State Government Insurance Office; and the Treasurer made a very significant remark in connection with this. I cannot remember his exact words, because I did not take them down at the time; but, from memory, I think he said that this loan would be obtained whether the department went over to a board or not. I thought the Government had made up its mind to put that department over to a board; and with its majority in both Houses I have been wondering why the doubt was creeping in.

Mr. Norton: Probably the Country Party does not agree.

Mr. TONKIN: So I am still left guessing on that point, as the Treasurer did not vouchsafe any additional information. What I wanted to know about this loan was something which should be of considerable interest to ratepayers because, on my calculation, this money is likely to cost the department about 9½ per cent. instead of the 5½ per cent. which the department now pays. Could the Treasurer tell me—and I hope you, Mr. Chairman, will permit him to give this answer by way of interjection—whether a request was submitted to the Loan Council for permission to borrow this money; and, if so, was the amount included in the authorisation?

Mr. Brand: This matter was raised by the Leader of the Opposition. The amount of £150,000 has been put forward and will go forward to the next Loan Council for approval. The total sum of approval for this sort of borrowing has been agreed to by the Loan Council.

Mr. TONKIN: So the total sum already approved includes the £150,000 for the Water Supply Department.

Mr. Brand: And the actual approval of the total allocation of the borrowing authority is approved at the next Loan Council.

Mr. TONKIN: That disposes of the problem which I had inasmuch as I could not see how we could overcome clause 5 of part I of the Financial Agreement in connection with this borrowing, so I was somewhat surprised at the answers I obtained. That suggests the Treasurer must have contemplated this borrowing by the Metropolitan Water Supply Department prior to the general election.

Mr. Brand: We had in mind that either as a board or as a department we would borrow a small amount of money under this particular heading.

Mr. TONKIN: I do not object to the department being able to get additional money so long as it does not penalise the

users of water, but in my view this is a very extravagant way of providing for the requirements of the department.

It is proposed, according to the answers supplied to me, to repay this loan by establishing a sinking fund as a result of an annual provision of £10,000 from the loan allocation. So each year instead of charging one half per cent. sinking fund, as the Metropolitan Water Supply Department does now, it will have to use up £10,000 of its loan money and put it aside so that it can repay this loan in 15 years. Therefore, it has to borrow each time it puts aside £10,000. It has to obtain £10,000 from somewhere else to replace it if it is to have the full advantage of the £150,000 over the full period of the loan.

If the Treasurer will do a little arithmetic and take into consideration the fact that it is not intended to invest this loan money outside the department at interest so there can be a contra set-off, he will find the net cost of this £150,000 to the Water Supply Department will be somewhere between 9 per cent. and 9½ per cent. per annum.

Mr. Brand: I will be happy to have those figures checked.

Mr. TONKIN: I would hope the Treasurer would; because borrowing money on short-term repayment and having to borrow to repay is a different matter from getting loan funds from the Government and having only to make a half per cent. deduction for contribution to sinking fund. There is no comparison between the cost of this £150,000 and £150,000 of loan money which the Government would make available to the department in the ordinary way at 4½ per cent. plus half per cent. sinking fund.

I say it is unfair to single out this department, which is not a profit-making department. Why not put it on the Railways Department? Why not give the Railways Department £150,000 less and let it use this £150,000 from the State Government Insurance Office?

Mr. Brand: This is what we have done with the State Electricity Commission, which provides a service.

Mr. TONKIN: It is an entirely different set-up.

Mr. Brand: Why?

Mr. TONKIN: It is a commission.

Mr. Brand: It borrows money in the same way. It raises its own loans.

Mr. TONKIN: It costs plenty, too.

Mr. Brand: Of course it does; but it provides a service—power and electricity—throughout the State.

Mr. TONKIN: In my view, it would have been preferable, if there is a shortage of loan funds, to let the Railways Department borrow this £150,000.

Mr. Brand: Why?

Mr. TONKIN: Because it is a profit-making concern. It is there to make profits on what it does. The railways are common carriers. Do not load a further burden upon the water supply. Why, it is almost intolerable as it is.

Mr. Brand: We made available some money by way of a grant from the Commonwealth Government.

Mr. TONKIN: If the Government proceeds with this crazy idea of a board, it is going to be in a lot of trouble. The Treasurer had to announce that in 1964-65 the State Electricity Commission would be coming on the loan market for a sum greater than the loan market will yield.

Mr. Brand: That's right.

Mr. TONKIN: Just imagine what the water board is going to do if it comes on the market at the same time.

Mr. Brand: That will have regard for all demands and the availability of loan money.

Mr. TONKIN: That will not provide the Treasurer with funds to carry out water extensions if he cannot go and borrow it simply because another department is borrowing too much. That is an aspect which has to be given very serious consideration; namely, the availability of loan funds on the open market and whether, if additional borrowing powers are conferred on some instrumentalities, saturation point will be reached, with the result that none of the instrumentalities will receive funds with which to carry on.

Mr. Brand: That applies to general raising of loans throughout Australia.

Mr. TONKIN: No; it does not. The Treasurer is proposing to take a step which is going to increase the pressure. At the present time the Water Supply Department does not have to go on the open market for money. It gets its supply, and has done so for years, from the Treasury.

Mr. Brand: The approval to raise these loans will be dealt with at the Loan Council, having regard for the capacity of the market.

Mr. TONKIN: If the Treasurer has to seek approval for loans for the water board, for the Fremantle Harbour Trust, and for the State Electricity Commission, his approvals will fall far short of his requirements, with the result that none of the instrumentalities will be able to do a proper job; and he will find himself in a situation such as they have in Victoria.

I hope the Treasurer saw what was in the paper last week concerning Victoria. A nice problem is confronting the Premier there because of the inability of the board to carry out necessary work; and the board is blaming the Government because it has not been given sufficient money to do it.

Mr. Brand: That would be a situation which is nothing new to any State Government.

Mr. TONKIN: That is a situation we ought to be trying to avoid here.

Mr. Brand: How can we avoid it?

Mr. TONKIN: By not turning this into a board. If the Treasurer turns the Metropolitan Water Supply Department into a board he will create the very situation I am explaining.

Mr. Brand: We will release the call on our own loan funds for building schools, for water supplies, and for other things.

Mr. Jamieson: At whose expense?

Mr. Brand: At whose expense?

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): Order!

Mr. TONKIN: I had a quick look through the figures to get more idea of the probable annual requirement of the State Electricity Commission without the abnormal circumstances which will arise in 1964-65. I came to the conclusion, rightly or wrongly, that the commission requires on the average about £2,750,000 a year. About £1,000,000 of that figure, or a little more, is needed to finance current works; the remainder, to repay money already borrowed. Therein lies the difference between financing as a department and financing as a commission; because every time the commission has to re-borrow to repay a loan, it is up for all sorts of charges and commissions; and, of course, its rate of interest is mounting because it is not really getting new money—it is only getting the original sum which was borrowed, but at greater cost every time it has to re-borrow to repay the loan.

That cumulative effect is very substantial. The Treasurer has already complained about the high interest charges to the department as being one of the reasons which justified his increasing the rates the way he has been doing. Well, if he proceeds with the proposition which he has indicated will be gone on with, his troubles are going to be even worse, and so are the troubles of the poor unfortunate ratepayers who have had to put up with the administration of this Government in connection with the cost and the supply of water.

I would like some clarification on the statement in connection with the position of effluent from Laporte. I notice there is no estimate of expenditure for this year. I was unaware that the pipeline had been completed, although it may have been. If that is so, no further explanation is, of course, required in connection with this item. But it rather surprised me that the project could have proceeded far enough as to be completed, so that no expenditure was contemplated in the current year.

The report on page 6 of the Loan Estimates shows that the expenditure for 1961-62 was £3,185, and no expenditure is

contemplated for this year. The note simply says, "State's proportion of expenditure on effluent outfall for Laporte Titanium Industry." I would like to know whether the figure shown is the total obligation of the State in connection with this effluent outfall. If it is not the total obligation, then what is the further obligation of the Government and in what year is it likely to be paid, seeing that this is not going to be paid this year?

Mr. Court: I think the Treasury changed the nomenclature. I think that if the Deputy Leader of the Opposition looks at item 21 on the same page it will answer his query.

Mr. TONKIN: That may be it. Item 21 says "Services for Industry" and there is a provision of £80,000.

Mr. Court: I do not know why they changed the nomenclature, but there must have been a reason for it. It may have been for classification purposes.

Mr. TONKIN: It is a bit misleading. I could not follow, in the light of my knowledge—which, I admit, is not conclusive—how we could get through without any expenditure on this item this year; but that could be the possible explanation of it.

Having delivered myself of the criticism which I desired to make at this stage on the Loan Estimates, I shall conclude my remarks by expressing my appreciation to the Minister for Works for providing funds for the provision of sewerage in the Melville district. When we took a deputation from the local authority to the Minister, he quite rightly pointed out that he was not then in a position to indicate with certainty whether money could be provided; but he undertook to see what could be done because he realised that the local authority had a very good case for sewerage works to be done in its district.

It was very pleasing to the local authority, and to the members who were associated with the deputation, to see, very shortly afterwards, an announcement from the Minister that funds had been obtained and that work would proceed. That is a very, very good thing, not only from the point of view of the development of the district, but from the public health point of view; because I have been told some rather alarming things about the position in the area because of the rapid development and the very large number of septic tanks, which knowledgeable people told me were likely to bring about a state of affairs which could result in a serious epidemic.

I have no pretensions to knowledge of this subject. I would be unaware of how many septic tanks to the square mile would be a safe number. But the persons who spoke to me about it were men who had made a study of this, and they expressed alarm at a situation which had developed because of the way in which this district was progressing. Therefore, they said, sewerage was an absolute must.

I am very pleased to see that substantial provision is made in the Estimates for this work. It naturally has my support, and on behalf of the people concerned I express my thanks to the Minister and the Treasurer. Whilst the Minister might submit the matter, the Treasurer has the final say, and I suppose it is to him rather than to anybody else that the credit should be given.

Mr. Brand: That is why I went out of my way to get that £150,000 for the Metropolitan Water Supply Department.

Mr. TONKIN: Now the Treasurer has spoiled it by prevaricating. However, whatever the reason or the method I am very pleased indeed that this substantial allocation was made. I say it was justified. The case put up was a good one, and I think it was timely. Things are not always done in such circumstances, but they are being done in this case; and I know that the local authority would want me to express its thanks to the Government for what has been done in this connection. With those remarks I support the Loan Estimates.

MR. JAMIESON (Beeloo) [4.57 p.m.]: I should like to say how pleased I am to see there are several projects on the Loan Estimates which have been needed for some time in the Beeloo area, particularly the south-of-the-river hospital. However, I still criticise the Government for providing only a 50-bed hospital, because it has been found in recent years that the running of such a hospital is most uneconomical in relation to that of larger hospitals. The Government will find that this hospital will be something like the South Perth Community Hospital in that it will become completely out of proportion to the service it will be providing for the community.

In country districts we have to expect additional costs in order to have a hospital on the site; but in the metropolitan area anything less than approximately a 100-bed hospital is considered, in this day and age, to be getting into the uneconomical bracket. Such hospitals have to have all the requirements of the larger hospitals and yet they provide accommodation for a lesser number of people. To that end I feel that the move to complete a 50-bed hospital is a bad one.

I note with keen interest the fact that the Wilson Primary School is provided for. The matter is one of long standing between myself and the Minister. Local people were beginning to think they had been forgotten in the provision of a primary school.

The main item which will affect expenditure in and around the Beeloo electorate is that associated with the marshalling yards and the development associated with the scheme. A considerable amount has

been allocated on the Estimates for that purpose. It is to be hoped that some progress can be made at an early date because the many people who own property in and around the marshalling yards have reached the conclusion that they are living in a stagnating area.

The population has fallen off in the Welshpool area; and I am sure that when industry has developed there; in the form of the marshalling yards, it will give the people some encouragement to stay on in their homes and not feel that they are in an area which is receiving very little consideration. Once this money begins to be spent, and the marshalling yards and all the associated industries develop—and it is interesting to note that many industries will probably go there as soon as the marshalling yards are established—the people will receive the encouragement I have mentioned.

Only a few days ago I saw that approximately 20 acres of land right alongside the marshalling yards was sold to a big flour milling firm at over £1,000 an acre. That item of news was featured in the local Press. Until the marshalling yards are established there will be no progress, and people having holdings in the area will feel they are left out on a limb, inasmuch as there will be no development taking place.

I, too, would like to criticise the amount allocated from the General Loan Fund to housing. The Premier did indicate that this is not the only amount available to the State Housing Commission for the building of houses, but I draw attention to page 11 of the Loan Estimates where the notes associated with the main items of expenditure for 1961-62 state—

Additional capital for erection of houses; Land acquisition and development; Completion of homes under construction; Advances under second mortgage; Assistance to home builders; Provision of homes for industrial personnel.

For this year the same 29 words appear in exactly the same order, which indicates that there must have been a tapering off.

It might be said that other means could possibly be used to finance private homes—means such as the very popular R. & I. Bank scheme; but the bank could not advance very much from the lesser amount granted to it in the form of extra capital, as has already been indicated by the member for Narrogin. The estimate this year has been decreased somewhat. If any of that money were to be allocated for housing, there would be a lesser amount available under this item.

In contradistinction to this move, which would indicate a lesser number of houses being built this year, it is of interest to know that in the *Adelaide Advertiser* on the 26th September there is a report of

the largest contract ever let in South Australia for Housing Trust homes—a contract for 1,350 houses. I am wondering whether this great leap forward has run into a brick wall; because it seems to be stopping somewhat if we have the same requirements needing the same amount of finance this year as in the previous year; and it would appear that that is the case.

The member for Narrogin mentioned that the loan allocation to various States was quite unfair. I think that no matter what political persuasion we are, we all feel we are not receiving a fair and proper allocation of the loan funds, not because we are in this State and another State gets more than we do, but because of the basis on which the funds are allocated.

In this regard we are indebted to my leader for his article in the newspaper this morning, although it is quite well known to us in this Chamber that the allocation is made in accordance with a formula that was worked out on the basis of the loan fund requirements for the years 1941-42 to 1944-45. Those are the four years used as the basis; and the figures quoted in the article will be fairly indicative to the general public that this State is not getting its fair and proper share of loan funds. It is possibly advisable that some move be made to deal with this matter before the next Loan Council meeting, at which all the States will want to push their own barrow and finally we will have the allocations made on the same old formula.

If any action is to be taken it should be taken by resolution of Parliament expressing concern at the continued use of the present formula for the allocation of loan funds; and the action would need to have full governmental support and, to achieve the best results, it should be initiated by the Government. However, the Government may or may not deem that a wise thing. It probably would think it would be pressing the Commonwealth Government too hard right on the eve of the allocation of loan funds to the various States.

To my mind the fairest way would be to allocate the loan funds on a land-mass-and-population basis. It would be quite reasonable for the Commonwealth to retain one-fifth of the total loan allocation for its own purposes. It has many costly projects which it is called upon to finance in its own right and in conjunction with State ventures. On the other hand, it would appear to be fair and equitable that we should get on to a basis somewhat similar to that which applies in respect of the allocation of petrol tax funds. It stands to reason that the State with the greatest amount of territory needs the greatest amount of development, and if we could have the allocation made on a land-mass-and-population basis, we

surely could not be any worse off than we are now; and at least we would be on an even basis with all the other States, and as our State grew in population our financial position would improve. Also we would possibly get the lion's share on land mass basis due to our holding one-third of the land mass of Australia.

This, no doubt, has been suggested many times, because it would not be an original thought that the allocation should be on the basis I have put forward. But it would appear to me to be the only logical basis; and we might receive support from some of the other States that were inclined to agree to the proposition of the then Prime Minister during the war years when the reductions were made.

If those people who have made big reductions in their loan spending—New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia, and Queensland—were prepared to gang up on this issue for a complete new scheme, then the other two States—Tasmania and South Australia—would have to play their part in it, too. Until some vigorous move is made to have a change in the basis of allocation, we will not receive our fair, proper, and equitable share of the loan funds.

There is one other matter on which I wish to comment. During the course of the 1959 elections the Trade Protection Association published in the Press a cartoon featuring Mr. Hawke's envelope-making machine deluging the State of Western Australia with envelopes; because it was claimed that the machine which had been purchased for the Government Printer could produce more envelopes than the population of Western Australia could possibly use in any given circumstances. Only a little later we saw that the Electoral Department was calling, through the Tender Board, tenders for envelopes, and the machine was not allowed to be used.

I mention this because I notice that under "Government Printing Office" an amount of £34,000 is provided for the purchase of printing machinery. The Government Printing Office, after all, is a bit of a socialistic venture; and, if the money is spent on machinery, it is right and proper that the machinery should be used in an economical way and that restrictions will not be imposed on the Government Printer so that the machinery will be used only for printing Votes and Proceedings, Loan Estimates, and a few other documents. If we have the facilities at our disposal to produce articles in our own workshop or our printing establishments, it is most desirable that we should use them.

The establishment of a printing works is not unusual. When firms grow they quite often establish their own printing shops. Even a chocolate factory might set up its own printing works to print its labels, and so on. I hope that once the machinery

referred to in these Estimates is purchased it will be used, as I feel that much of the machinery that is bought with loan funds—bought for the railways and other departments—is not, under the present Government, being used as economically as it should be.

MR. J. HEGNEY (Belmont) [5.12 p.m.]: I wish to refer to a few items that are of some importance to my electorate. I am pleased to see there is an amount on the Loan Estimates for a continuation of the sewerage extension in the Rivervale area. Work is proceeding, and there is no doubt it will be of great benefit to the district.

Lathlain Park adjoins the Rivervale area, and many residents there have for a long time been clamouring for sewerage facilities. As a matter of fact, many persons over the years have asked me when the sewerage is likely to go to that district. Sewerage mains are practically all around that area. Carlisle is seweraged, and I think that what is known as Perth Oval is seweraged, yet there are residences on the western side of Perth Oval—

Mr. Oldfield: It is called Lathlain Park.

Mr. J. HEGNEY: I am talking about Lathlain Park.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): Order!

Mr. J. HEGNEY: I am talking about the grounds used by the Perth Football Club, and they are called the Perth Oval. It is their headquarters. As one who played for Perth some years ago, I know the ambitions of the Perth Football Club. However, I am talking about the need to sewer that area. There are many fine brick residences, and for many years the people have been asking for the sewerage to be extended there. I hope that as the department is proceeding with its extensions into the Rivervale area, it will also continue on into the Lathlain Park area.

The same applies in respect of essential drainage in the Belmont district. I am pleased that the department, under the Minister's administration, is continuing with the scheme known as the comprehensive drainage scheme. There is no question that great work has been done in and around the metropolitan area, particularly in the eastern suburbs, including Bayswater, Belmont, and Welshpool, and other low-lying areas situated at the foot of the hills, where the water coming down from the hills after the heavy winter rains creates many problems.

That work is being continued and will afford the necessary relief to residents who have constructed excellent houses, in that it will prevent water rising around them in the future. Further, the work will have a beneficial effect on health because it will

eliminate those many areas which, up until now, have been breeding grounds for mosquitoes and flies.

Another matter which has been brought to my attention by the Parents & Citizens' Association of the Belmay School—which school adjoins the Perth Airport—is the request for separate toilet blocks for the infants. Over 600 children attend this large school. There is considerable housing development in the vicinity and the population is increasing. Many of the children in the infants' school are only five years of age, and the Parents & Citizens' Association has complained bitterly about these children having to use the toilets that are set aside for the primary school children. I have here a copy of a letter dated the 6th March, 1962, which the association sent to the Director of Education, and it reads as follows:—

At a meeting of the Belmay Infants' P. & C. on Wednesday, 28th February, the matter of toilets for the above school was again raised.

As you are probably aware, the situation is as follows:—

- (i) The infants and the primary school children both have to use the primary school toilets.
- (ii) The toilets are situated away from the infant school classrooms alongside the primary school block.
- (iii) This means that 5-year old infant children have to use the same toilets as 13-year old primary school children.
- (iv) The infants' school is staffed by female teachers only, and this means that no supervision of male children's toilet usage can be made (some children are only 5 years of age in Grade 1).
- (v) Dr. Lowe, the departmental medical officer, after his routine school inspection last year reported adversely on the existing toilet arrangements. This report was made in July, 1961.

The letter went on to point out that the State Housing Commission was still active in the area and that therefore the existing problem must become aggravated.

The association is aware that additions to the school are contemplated, but it argues that the erection of a new brick toilet block for the infants should be proceeded with immediately. The department should be prepared to provide this necessary toilet accommodation for such small children. The Parents & Citizens' Association has written not only to the Director of Education but also to the Minister. I have raised this matter during the Address-in-Reply debate, and I am raising it again in this debate to refresh

the Minister's memory because I notice that in this year's Loan Estimates there is no provision for any additional building at the Belmay Street School.

MR. GRAHAM (Balcatta) [5.20 p.m.]: First of all, I would like to state that from my observations there appears to be a waning of interest and enthusiasm in the general debates that have taken place in this House. To me that is a most regrettable feature, and for my own satisfaction I have been endeavouring to work out the reason for it. I can only conclude that, to some extent, it is due to the fact that, rightly or wrongly, very little of what is said by private members—and my remarks apply to what is said by members on both sides of the House—finds its way into the Press or other media for the distribution of information among the public.

After all is said and done, if a member of Parliament—who occupies a position of responsibility in that he represents some thousands of people—spends a great deal of time on research and study and in conversation with people of some authority, eventually delivers an address in this House—be it short or long—and not one word of it appears in these organs of public information, it is extremely disheartening to say the least. If there is only a handful of members in the House to whom the speech is made; if very little interest is shown by a Minister of the Crown; and if there is a very limited number of the reading public acquainted with the facts of his speech, there appears to be little purpose in his having taken pains in preparing the information and subsequently delivering his address.

I am not making these remarks in any party-political spirit. I am deploring the fact, which is apparent to me, that, because of this discouragement, members are beginning to feel it is hardly worth while going to all this trouble in gathering information if nothing is to happen as a result of their efforts. It will be a sad day if members are discouraged from making their contributions to the debates in this House, which are preceded, of course, by study and research. Let me say here and now that this is not to be considered as a plea to the representatives of the Press and broadcasting stations that they should devote their attention to me. This is not a personal matter. I am speaking in a general sense.

I think all will agree that in these times there is a considerable amount of drivel and meaningless information passed on to the public whether it be through the Press, by radio, or by television; and I am certain the community would be better off were they never acquainted with it because it is out of all proportion to what a reasonably enlightened public have a right to expect.

For instance, an incident concerning a boy nursing a dog might have some humanitarian appeal, but on occasions we will find that such an incident will occupy 50 per cent. of the front page of a daily newspaper.

On the other hand, surely what is being said and done by a representative of Parliament is of far more interest! You are probably aware, Mr. Chairman, that members of the general public are vitally interested in political matters. I am not suggesting for one moment that they would attend public meetings in great numbers; but many of the discussions and arguments that take place in clubs, hotels, and in the lunch-rooms of various establishments, revolve around political matters.

I think, therefore, that the public has a right to be better informed so that they might debate with one another the various matters on an authoritative basis. I repeat that I claim no respect for myself or the party of which I am a member. Perhaps, before very long, I will refer to what some of my colleagues describe as brainwashing; that is, the blatant one-sided presentation of news, whether it be on an international, national, or State level.

I maintain that the very basis of democracy is being destroyed. I say that because, if my memory does not fail me, I am doing him no injustice when I refer to what that distinguished citizen, Professor Walter Murdoch, said; namely, that democracy is government by an enlightened community. If the public are unaware of the Labor viewpoint on a question after having had put to it the Liberal viewpoint, how is it possible for the public to make a proper assessment of the rival policies of the two major political parties? Why should it be necessary for a newspaper constantly, and almost without exception, to apply the soft pedal of criticism to a Government of a certain political colour and, simultaneously, boom and exaggerate the importance of the moves taken by a Government of the same political colour?

There may be certain merit in what is being done by a Government of the colour and calibre of which I have spoken, but these exaggerations are grossly unfair to the public, and, through the public—because its members are the voting media—to our democracy. If the members of the public are kept uninformed, or, worse still, everything disseminated among them is being slanted; and, hand in hand with that, the representatives of the public are being discouraged from their duty of expressing themselves on the issues of the day—however parochial their comments may be—then perhaps democracy is rapidly approaching the day when it will not be worth the millions of lives that have been lost in its cause, or worth the suffering of millions of people who have had their lives dislocated on account of disabilities.

This, in my view, is a most serious matter, and one to which responsible people should give some attention. If that were done, I know that probably each and every one of us would arrive at different conclusions on what the remedy might be. It is certainly no purpose of mine to canvass my ideas on the subject at this stage.

Following on from that, before dealing with one or two matters concerning the Loan Estimates, I am rather surprised—but, perhaps, from experience I should not be—that it is possible for groups of firms or persons to make determinations which have a serious impact on the Commonwealth, the State, and the individual without any protest being made by the Government and without any action being taken to curb these influences.

Members may have read about a report which was submitted by the Tariff Board to the Commonwealth Government yesterday. I hope that copies of this document will be received in this State before long. From the short summary appearing in the Press it was stated by a body which has no political axe to grind that Australia is being very unfairly treated in many different directions because of restrictive trade practices. We all know of those practices being in existence in our own State. We are also aware that the Commonwealth Liberal Government has made statements on many occasions on the necessity to curb these practices; but up to date, apart from talk, nothing apparently has been done.

In the history of Western Australia a great deal has been made out of the restrictive trade practices legislation, particularly by the Liberal Party, and by *The West Australian* and its affiliated companies, and by organisations over which it exercised some dominance or control. Actually that was a piece of legislation which was harmless in its effect, and in the powers and authority contained therein; it was a genuine endeavour on the part of the Government—a step endorsed by this Parliament—to do something to protect the people.

We find that today there is an attitude, or a policy of *laissez faire* adopted by this Government. Recently international freight rates were increased by a body of business interests which met and decided that from a certain date freights would be increased by a certain percentage. In this morning's newspaper we read that interstate road transport charges are to be increased by 10 per cent.

There was no word of protest or criticism. Apparently this Government feels that free enterprise or free competition is all right as a catchcry for political purposes, but when the elections are over the various groups can join together and increase prices and charges to their heart's content.

Mr. Fletcher: But trade unionists cannot do the same.

Mr. GRAHAM: Naturally from the point of view of this Government they should not be able to do the same. We are all aware that recently the banks decided to increase their charges to the public. I am disappointed this Government did not use its power or authority, or at least its good offices, in the case of the Rural and Industries Bank, to ensure that that bank adopted a proper perspective in this matter. Here is a burden to be placed—indeed the scheme is already in operation—upon the members of the public, and upon business concerns, which no doubt will pass on the increased charges with a percentage added; yet this Government sits back contentedly and utters no word of protest. It takes no action in the direction in which it could have exercised some authority; that is, in the case of the Rural and Industries Bank.

I am wondering whether this Government is afraid that if the Rural and Industries Bank did not join the Associated Banks it would attract a greater volume of business and take customers away from the private banks! As I have said on more excitable occasions, this Government hates anything that belongs to Western Australia. The only good feature about Western Australia is when a portion of it is carved up and given over to private enterprise! I say the Minister for Railways would be most distressed if, by the end of this month, there was a report that many thousands of erstwhile customers of the trading banks had transferred their accounts to the Rural and Industries Bank because it was not charging the additional fees which were commenced recently.

Mr. Brand: Nothing of the sort! Why pick on the Minister for Railways when he is absent? You wonder why the Press does not publish all this nonsense.

Mr. GRAHAM: As the Premier knows, the Minister for Railways is the arch supporter and promoter of what he calls private or free enterprise, and anything belonging to the Government is good only if it is carved up and given over to private enterprise.

Mr. Brand: At least he has the political courage to stand up to his beliefs.

Mr. GRAHAM: I suppose I have every right to disagree with his beliefs, and I am expressing my disagreement.

Mr. Brand: Of course you have; but why criticise him for standing up to his?

Mr. GRAHAM: What an extraordinary state of affairs the Premier has put forward! I am disagreeing violently with what a certain Minister, or with what the Government is doing, but the Premier is criticising my right to do that.

Mr. Brand: You are being personal about it.

Mr. GRAHAM: I am not being personal. This applies to the Government as a whole. We all know that the Minister for Railways is regarded throughout Western Australia as being the spokesman for, and the greatest supporter of, this free or private enterprise set-up. That statement does not do him an injustice.

If the Premier believes in half of what he has said by way of interjection he should confer tomorrow with the commissioners of the R. & I. Bank and advise them that here is an opportunity for the bank to do a service for the people of Western Australia, and at the same time considerably expand the business of the bank. If this Government had any concern for the things appertaining to Western Australia, it should busy itself in order to do what I have suggested.

Members opposite raised an objection to the establishment of an independent authority to arbitrate in a case where it was thought an injustice had been done by one party. They objected when there was an authority in existence for the purpose of arbitrating on prices, unfair rentals, and the rest. To establish an independent authority is wrong, according to this Government; but for a group of business interests to get together and operate on a basis of collusive tendering or of price rigging, apparently it is all right, because that is "private" enterprise. Of course, this is only bandying words about.

If there is to be an authority to determine that haircuts are to be increased from 5s. to 5s. 6d., it should not be the Master Hairdressers' Association. There should be an independent authority to deal with such a matter. Where there is an organisation such as the one I mentioned—incidentally only by way of illustration—it should not be left, entirely on its own, to determine prices. Apart from other things, such an organisation is in a position to exercise influence and pressure upon its members or those engaged in the trade, who might feel disposed to retain the old charges, to agree to increased charges.

My view is that the Government should be more concerned with the people of Western Australia, with the things that belong to Western Australia, and the things which should belong to Western Australia—and by that I mean belong to the people here. Investments in this or that field, and figures relating to such investments should be of lesser consequence. What is important are the rights of the people, the standard of living of the people, and the general enjoyment of all sections of the people, whether they be workers, farmers, businessmen, or others. To make everything rosy for big business, and then to take it for granted that everybody else in the State is all right, as affecting every section of the community, is not my idea of good government.

After centuries of waiting and striving, the ordinary people were given a vote. Most of the legislation of the past was designed for the purpose of protecting the weak or the underdog; to ensure that as our economic processes, science, and inventions developed, the ordinary people would be allowed a reasonable and fair share of the goods, a greater amount of leisure, of freedom, of facilities, and the rest.

In this State the Government appears to have travelled in reverse. As long as everything is all right for big business it assumes that everything is all right for the rest of the people. According to the Government, the prosperity of Western Australia depends upon the number of companies operating here, and upon the volume of profits they make; in other words, upon the economic climate. But if a move is made for an additional week's annual leave, or for some real improvement in the workers' compensation legislation, or for similar benefits which affect the ordinary people of the community, the Government says it cannot be done, or it gives reasons why the move cannot succeed. Yet it readily gives all the assistance and concessions possible to the big interests I have mentioned.

My principal purpose in rising to my feet is to say a few words on housing. Let me say how intensely dissatisfied I am. In doing so—I do not expect any admission from members on the opposite side of the House—I refer to a certain amount of contempt that is being shown by the Minister for Housing towards the members of this Chamber. Before proceeding with the question of housing let me develop this thought, which is not original.

If this, or any other Government in the future, is to consider an increase in the number of Ministers in the Government—and I would not criticise any Government which contemplated such a move—every Minister who is in charge of a Government department should be drawn from members of the Legislative Assembly. Ministers in the Legislative Council should be Ministers without portfolio; and they should be in that House to handle the legislation of the Government. I am not being political when I say that it is a bad feature of government when members in this House representing the goldfields or other mining districts are unable to have direct communication with the Minister for Mines, because he is in the Legislative Council.

Mr. Bovell: He has a representative here.

Mr. GRAHAM: I do not deny that. When there is a knotty problem or some matter which appears to be somewhat difficult, then the Minister representing the Minister for Mines often says that he cannot be expected to know about it. If it is a question, he will often ask for it to be placed on the notice paper. If such a matter is raised in the course of debate he often states that he has to look into the

matter, or that the Minister for Mines, the Minister for Justice, or the Minister for Local Government has to look into it.

This is the House where Governments are made and unmade. Every citizen of Western Australia has a vote in the election of the members who constitute this Chamber. Irrespective of which political party forms the Government, those in charge of the Government departments—that is, in charge of the activities of government—should be members of this House, as the representatives of the people. They would be better able to conduct their business here. I suppose I can speak more feelingly, as for a period of time I was a Minister of the Crown, when I say that the lot of a private member is not a particularly happy or satisfying one.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: When you become Premier will you implement this suggestion which you are putting forward?

Mr. GRAHAM: That is a reasonably long-range question. I have already indicated that if the Government has any thoughts on that matter it can expect support from me.

Mr. Brand: Have you put this up to your own party?

Mr. GRAHAM: No; I have not. I should say that it probably does not need endorsement from my party; but, again speaking without any authority, if—and there was suggestion of it some time earlier—the Government is considering increasing the number of members—

Mr. Brand: It is not.

Mr. GRAHAM: I think there would be opposition if consideration were being given to increasing the number of Ministers in the Legislative Council, because that would mean that additional portfolios would be taken away from members of the Legislative Assembly. In any event it is perhaps worth investigation on the part of the Premier to have 10 members with portfolios in this Chamber even if a couple of them were Honorary Ministers. This would allow the two Ministers in the other House to devote their full time to the handling of the Government's legislation and familiarising themselves with the various departments in the interim in order that they might speak with some authority instead of solely from notes as, unfortunately, is very often the case. I make no criticism about that; it is part and parcel of the system.

To get back to housing, I did make an utterance respecting the Minister for Housing. The member for Bayswater asked some questions in connection with policy regarding evictions. The reply was that there had been no change in policy. It is not my intention to quote specific cases, but I should say that every member of this Chamber, if he has been a member for three years or more, is aware of the fact that there has been a very definite

tightening up in policy. If that be so—and it is so—surely it is no affront to the Government or the Minister for that fact to be admitted. Why deny it?

Mr. Oldfield: The Minister would not know what he was doing.

Mr. GRAHAM: Perhaps that interjection was not warranted. I asked some questions with regard to maintenance as applying to Commonwealth-State rental homes. Certain information was given which would lead the unwary to believe that maintenance was being embarked upon more frequently than was the case previously—in other words I suppose, by inference, at the time I was Minister for Housing. I was aware that the periods were getting longer, and one has a habit of finding out what is going on.

I subsequently read the 1959-60 annual report of the State Housing Commission in which is the following:—

Every possible avenue of achieving economies was vigorously explored and several measures such as the Annual Contract System for Minor Maintenance and extending the interval between periodic renovation and re-painting have resulted in substantial savings.

What is achieved by a Minister framing his replies to questions in order to give the impression that the State Housing Commission is being as generous as ever when here is the annual report, not prepared for any particular political purpose but merely as information for Parliament and others, as to what has transpired?

A third case: When I learnt that the State Housing Commission was increasing its minimum deposit from £50 to £100, I asked the reason. I was informed by the Minister for Housing through his representative in this House that a survey which had been undertaken revealed that £50 was insufficient, and so on.

Mr. Jamieson: Sir Thomas Playford is selling his 1,350 new houses on £50 deposit.

Mr. GRAHAM: That would not surprise me. They sold some in Tasmania without any deposit. I asked for a copy of the survey to which I have referred; and, as the Chief Secretary is aware, it was necessary for me to wait a week or so until something purporting to be a survey was finally produced. In other words, this was a decision which had been made without evidence. When I asked for the evidence, someone had to concoct it.

Anyone who did not know much about the State Housing Commission could have been taken in by it. Forgive my modesty, but I did learn one or two things whilst Minister for Housing; and it was possible for me to analyse this survey. I found that in order to cook the figures—and I use those words deliberately—the aborigines had been included among those who had lodged a deposit of £50 and under.

The aborigines were under a separate arrangement altogether. The Government decided that comparatively humble homes should be built for native people and that they would pay a humble deposit of £10 or £25—more if they could afford it—the Government knowing full well that many of them would fall down on their obligations. But it was an honest attempt to do something for them in the hope that others would follow their example.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: You are not saying that the Minister for Housing has deliberately lied in the answers to the questions he gave you, are you?

Mr. GRAHAM: I have never received such a succession of unsatisfactory answers to questions asked for the purpose of obtaining information. If political questions are asked, one expects a little by-play in connection with them; but if actual information is sought, then whether the department is right or wrong, or whether I agree or disagree, is of no concern. The reply should be thoroughly reliable and authoritative.

Again, I say that there has been a whole lot of talk and speculation in connection with the Games Village. I asked a series of questions regarding the cost of the construction of that village and certain things appertaining to it. The Minister made no attempt whatever to answer my questions. I am not blaming the Chief Secretary because he is merely acting for the Minister for Housing. I expected an unsatisfactory reply—but not as blatant as was the case—because I was aware that the Minister was away from his office for several days. I know that the questions were postponed day after day which I assumed was because of his absence. However, other questions asked were replied to, notwithstanding the fact that he was not in his office. Apparently my questions required the personal touch of the Minister for Housing.

I asked these questions and no answers have been given, and I want to know why. Surely a member is entitled to know the cost, for instance, of the supervision, the development of the grounds and lawns, the construction of roadways, kerbing, and footpaths, and so on. Is there anything secret or confidential about that?

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: They were lumped together, were they not?

Mr. GRAHAM: I asked for the individual items.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I asked you to rephrase your questions.

Mr. GRAHAM: I have done that very thing; and in due course I will be interested to see what reply I get.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Frankly, aren't you by and large being a bit naive when trying to get the actual information you want? When you were in Government the

answers given by your Ministers were much more evasive than the answers given at present.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): Order!

Mr. GRAHAM: I deny that absolutely.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: You work it out. It is hard to—

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): Order! The honourable member must address the Chair.

Mr. GRAHAM: The Chief Secretary cannot get away with that. What he is suggesting is palpably at discord with the facts of the situation. But in any event that does not excuse the present position. I am making a complaint as a reasonably responsible member of Parliament. There is the expenditure of £1,000,000 of public money, and I want some details with regard to it. I can tell members that there would be many thousands of people interested to know.

I am not very proud of the Games Village. I criticised the plans when the first lay-out—that is, the subdivision, or the design of the area—was prepared. But I suppose it was a holy of holies because it had gone to some private people outside and therefore could not help but be good in the eyes of this Government. Members will see from questions and answers that the architects are receiving something in excess of £30,000, but they are not carrying out any supervision. The State Housing Commission is doing all that. Apparently the houses are everything one would expect them to be because they have been designed by private enterprise.

Here we have a village to be the cynosure of hundreds of thousands of pairs of eyes—the Games Village: 150 houses and only 13 designs, some of them appearing 10, 15, and 20 times over. There is a clash, so far as that little settlement is concerned, against the balance of the houses at City Beach. There, there is life, there is colour, there is variety; there is the ranch type of house, the pavilion type of house, the old orthodox one with the gables, and so on. There are various coloured bricks, and multicoloured tiles. But here we have a dingy village where grey and the dun colours predominate. The front row of houses remind me of shearing sheds, or something of that nature: corrugated asbestos, which looks like corrugated iron, and practically every one with a brick wall in front as though it were Fremantle gaol.

Members will pardon me for saying this, but let us have a look at the entrance, where a 6 ft. high cyclone fence was put and where some 10,000 or more people paid 2s. each to inspect these houses. Some people actually thought that one house immediately in front as one enters the village, on the right-hand side, looked like

a gentlemen's public convenience. It looks precisely that from about 100 yards away. People say there is no variety in the colour of the bricks; they are nearly all this pale dun colour of sand lime bricks. There is the grey colour of the corrugated asbestos and the super six; and even where tiles are used in that locality they are very largely of the same uninspiring colour.

Everybody, surely, does not want a row of houses as though they have all come out of the same mould; and in the street immediately to the rear, which I was not allowed to inspect, I understand that every second house is identical: the type of bricks, the colour of the tiles, and so on.

Incidentally, I noticed a most interesting feature. I do not know whether other members have noticed it, but they can see it without going through the cyclone fence. There is a house right on the corner, and it is one of many. There are no gutters around it. That is in its completed state; so when there is rain, such as is falling at the present moment, the husband or the wife or their visitors will get something approaching Niagara Falls down the backs of their necks as they enter the house either from the front or from the rear. There is no gutter around the entire roof. That is a completed house, and there are many of them.

Mr. Oldfield: It's not going to rain through the Games.

Mr. GRAHAM: I do not know whether it is or whether it is not. I think that if members cast their eyes on the other side of the road they will see the houses which are being built privately and separately. They will appeal to them immediately as being of different styles and varieties to suit various tastes. There is colour and brightness about them, which is completely different from the Games Village.

Mr. J. Hegney: And they will have been built more cheaply.

Mr. GRAHAM: I do not know anything about that. This may be an appropriate moment for me to say something about cheapness, or the cost of those houses. I asked some questions earlier this session as to what was the approximate average cost of the houses, excluding the land. The Minister for Housing informed me through the Chief Secretary that the figure was £5,128.

Mr. Toms: Including land.

Mr. GRAHAM: No, without land. That was Wednesday, the 1st August, 1962. On Tuesday, the 11th September, 1962, I asked some questions and received some answers. If the figures are totted together it will be seen that the average cost is £5,450.

Mr. Oldfield: Somebody told a lie somewhere.

Mr. GRAHAM: Perhaps we should not use language as extravagant as that; but from my reckoning there is an increase of £320, roughly, in the course of a few weeks. Then we have the questions, in response to which I got some most unsatisfactory answers, on Tuesday of this week. For the construction only of the houses—and these are the Minister's figures—the average figure for each house is £5,507. The cost has gone up another £57.

Mr. H. May: Don't ask any more questions.

Mr. GRAHAM: If we pass from that and include—which, of course, should be included—the administration and incidentals, security and insurance, and rates and so forth—these are all costs pertaining to the building of the houses, plus, of course, the land development—then the average cost is £6,053 per house. None of these items can be avoided.

Then, of course, there is the land itself. If we add that—and, incidentally, I think the valuation is a little low judging from what sales realised at recent auctions—we get an average of £7,216. That is an average figure. There are certain houses down there which I would not accept at a thousand pounds over the value of the land. That is my honest opinion. Some of those houses may appeal to some people, but they do not appeal to me.

I think the whole village is an eyesore, as a matter of fact, because of its lack of colour and inspiration; because of the sameness. Instead of its being a showplace of the West, it is something of which nobody can be proud. Admittedly, after entering the dwellings—particularly those that were decked out in fittings and furnishings, and the rest of it—they do look attractive. But there will be tens of thousands of visitors here from overseas and from the Eastern States, and probably many Western Australian too, who will see nothing but the exteriors. It is a most unedifying sight to witness the buildings which are down there at the present moment.

I suggest to any member that he should drive past the Games Village and mentally digest what he sees—if I am not mixing my metaphors, and things, at this stage—and then travel to the other side of the road where there are some houses which have been privately built, costing, I should say, not a penny more than the houses in the Games Village, and he will see how attractive they are.

The Games Village is to become part and parcel of the City Beach Estate. Forever and a day it should not surely be dissimilar—something which shrieks at everything which surrounds it! But again it is a fetish of this Government. The town planning of the area is most inappropriate and inconvenient. The designing of the types of houses, which was handed out to private architects at an

extra £200 or more, is loaded on to every house because of this Government's desire to ingratiate itself with the private architect. The State Housing Commission, as many of us would be aware, has qualified architects who have been responsible for buildings large and small.

Mr. Brand: Why would they have produced any other pattern? Why would a Government architect's plan be any different in standard and design from that of a private architect?

Mr. GRAHAM: By and large private architects do not plan suburbs; but the Housing Commission does. Not very many people go to private architects for their homes, incidentally.

Mr. Brand: Is that so!

Mr. GRAHAM: Those who do want houses of a particular style, in any event; and however outlandish it might be according to the Premier's viewpoint, and mine, that is how that particular person wants it, and it is one house in a street, or one house in a suburb. To have street after street and row after row of houses with the same character I think is shocking, architecturally; and it reminds me of what I saw in Canberra where, for a period, they apparently had a fetish for red-brick flat-roofed houses. One would see 50 of them cheek by jowl; and then there were a few hundred imported weatherboard houses with galvanised iron roofs, every type identical and every house sited in exactly the same way and painted in exactly the same colour.

Then one would come upon a new type of house and one would find hundreds upon hundreds of reddish-coloured terra-cotta houses of a particular design and type, and then something else again after that. There were separate groups instead of having them intermingled with other houses showing some individuality.

The Games Village looks as though it is an institutional area—as though the houses are part of a chain put together by a mass production method. But these houses will be sold to individuals with their individual outlook; and I am certain that if I had my choice I would not like a house identical with the one next door to me, over the road, around the corner, and so on. Although to the uninitiated each house might appear to be of a different design, there is really no difference other than by the putting up of a different type of walling in order to give a little privacy.

I daresay you, Mr. Chairman, and members generally have deduced that I am not happy with the Games Village. I still say that I and every member, and indeed the public of Western Australia, are entitled to know without any camouflage, and without any playing with figures for the purpose of endeavouring to camouflage, the

actual cost, or at least the anticipated cost, of the Games Village at this stage. It is our right to be informed.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: The figure was given in the answers, was it not?

Mr. GRAHAM: No; the figure has not been given; and I have asked for it in a detailed manner for certain reasons. Surely if the roads cost £500 a chain we are entitled to have a look at that! I have no idea whether they cost £200 or £2,000 a chain, but we are entitled to know the cost. I do not know what the Government, or more particularly the Minister, hopes to achieve by camouflaging or by denying this information. Surely it is available at the State Housing Commission; or, if it is not, it is time some drastic action was taken by the Government or the Minister in respect of that department.

Nobody will tell me that they are paying for earthworks when they do not know what the cost is; or that they have engaged somebody to put in bitumen streets without knowing their liability; or the costs of the lawn planting around the homes! What has it cost up to date for the loaming, watering, tending, and cutting of the grass, etc.? Accounts come in and some arrangements have to be made, before the work is undertaken, regarding the payment of it. What is all the secrecy about? In the same way I am endeavouring to find out from what source the funds have come for the construction of the village. I asked some questions and I received some answers, and I know now as much as I did before I put pen to paper; so a few more questions will appear on the notice paper.

In reply to my questions there were just a bare couple of words, which might mean anything; and in my view that is not good enough. When a member is seeking information which should be available to the public it should not be assumed by any Minister that he is doing it for a mischievous purpose; or that when a member of the Opposition asks a question he is seeking to make some party-political gain. We have a responsibility as members of Parliament for the general public interest.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: It is difficult to see why you are knocking the village at this juncture.

Mr. GRAHAM: I do not know that I am knocking the village.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Yes you are.

Mr. Brand: When you were Minister you said you would give an open cheque in regard to this matter.

Mr. GRAHAM: Yes.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I heard him say that myself.

Mr. GRAHAM: As a matter of fact the Premier can see something better than that; he can see what I said in the letter I addressed to the Lord Mayor when I was Minister for Housing. Photostat copies have been made of it and one copy appears in the official brochure of the Perth City Council. All I was indicating as Minister for Housing was that the housing requirements of the athletes and officials would be provided, and that the city council could give that assurance to the games people who were making the determination specifically as to whether Adelaide or Perth should receive the award.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Your criticism now is not doing the Games Village any good, or the games themselves any good.

Mr. GRAHAM: I do not think what I am saying has any bearing on that. The Minister is not being very fair.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I am fair; you are the one.

Mr. GRAHAM: I do not think the Minister is being very fair. I have served on committees for a period of three years—committees which meet frequently; I have been down there taking 2s. from people who wanted to see over the Games Village; I have been from door to door on the door-knock campaign; and I have been out at nights for many hours at a time working for the appeal.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: And now you are virtually destroying it.

Mr. GRAHAM: Nobody is virtually destroying it. I have waited until the appeal has been concluded, and I have waited until the village is practically completed. The genesis of my complaint is that the Minister will not be forthright in his answers; and if there is any complaint on the part of the Chief Secretary let him admonish the Minister for Housing.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: There is no complaint about that, but I do complain about knocking the Games Village.

Mr. GRAHAM: I daresay that the thousands of people who have seen the village both from inside and out have expressed their opinions with regard to the types of homes that have been built there. For the life of me I cannot see that anything I have to say will have any effect whatever on the conduct of the games.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Your words here get more prominence than those of the people in the street.

Mr. Brand: Headlines tomorrow morning!

Mr. GRAHAM: I am certain that if members generally go there and have a look for themselves they will come to the same conclusion as I have. I shall not say any more, and I would not have risen to speak on housing, or any other matter, had I received better treatment

in respect of the questions I have asked concerning housing, but with particular reference to the Games Village. I trust that now I have put them back on the notice paper in a slightly different form, the information which thousands of people are waiting for will be made available to this Chamber, and through it to the public generally.

Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again, on motion by Mr. Norton.

TOWN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned

Bill returned from the Council with an amendment.

House adjourned at 6.17 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 9th October, 1962

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